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**A Weekly Journal of the Chemical and Drug Trades**  
and of  
**British Pharmacists throughout the Empire,**  
ESTABLISHED 1859.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is the leading journal addressing the chemical and drug trades of the British Empire. It is adopted as an official journal by nineteen Chemists' Societies in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies, and its paid-in-advance circulation in Great Britain and all Countries having business relations with the British Empire is intrinsically and numerically unique.

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#### THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

Principal Offices: 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

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## Summary of this Issue.

The more notable items only are dealt with.

#### Articles and News.

The text of the New South Wales Pharmacy Bill is given on p. 33.

Dr. Dobbin deals (on p. 34) with the oxidising agents employed in chemical analysis.

We have compiled a table comparing the deaths from poison in Ireland during 1909 and 1910 (p. 50).

The statistics of pharmacy students in France show a diminution over the previous year (p. 37).

The list of traders who have received Royal Warrants of Appointment to Queen Alexandra is given on p. 34.

The Dentists Act Amendment Bill which was drafted by the British Dental Association has been abandoned (p. 50).

The substitution of the term "wood naphtha" for "wood alcohol" is a consummation desired in Minnesota (p. 40).

French pharmacists complain that military officers and their families are supplied with medicaments at cost-price and in any quantity (p. 58).

Sir James Sawyer's newly invented cremules have caused "Xrayser II." to make some observations on the neglect of lozenges as a form of medicine (p. 47).

Individual traders will eventually triumph in businesses which demand skill and taste is the belief expressed in a new business book by Mr. E. Bull (p. 47).

Now that the "National Formulary" has been adopted in the United States as a standard for drugs, the Council of the American Pharmaceutical Association is considering the advisability of publishing a general recipe-book (p. 40).

Mr. Albert Cooper, a well-known London pharmaceutical chemist, died last week. We print his portrait and biography on p. 42. Among the other obituary notices are those of Mr. Henry Bate, Dr. Ladenburg, Lord James of Hereford, and Mr. William Wright (pp. 42 and 43).

The railway strike, now fortunately ended, forms the subject of a note on p. 50. We give items of news from strike areas, which show how the drug-business has been affected (p. 35). "Xrayser II." deals with the causes of strikes, and shows that a desire for rise in wages is legitimate (p. 47).

Another suggestion for fixing a tariff for the dispensing required by the National Insurance Scheme is given in a letter from Mr. Wilson on p. 62. Mr. Roux warns chemists that unless steps are taken to prevent it, the work will be profitless. Another correspondent objects to slighting remarks which have been made about medical dispensers.

Further reports have been issued by the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy containing suggestions for the revision of the British Pharmacopœia. The work which we publish in abstract is in these reports brought down to July 31. As these reports are probably the last of the series, we take the opportunity of commenting on the present system of pharmacopœial revision (p. 49).

The report of the Committee entrusted with the revision of the Medical Scales for merchant ships has been published. We print the Committee's recommendations on p. 44. On the next page we give in tabular form the new scales for medicines and medical stores and necessities, while the emergency scale is printed on p. 46. We indicate in an article on p. 48 the main alterations that are recommended, and also note the objection of shipowners to the suggested new position of dispenser.

#### Trade and Market Matters.

Particulars in regard to the formation of an International White Lead Syndicate will be found on page 58.

An advance equal to 2d. per proof gal. has taken place in German potato-spirit, full details in regard to which will be found on p. 58.

The effect of the late strike is observable in the produce markets, and will be so for a week or two yet. The bulk of price changes, however, are on the up-grade, and include an advance in German potato-spirit, farina, dextrin, benzols, milk-sugar, Ceylon citronella oil, and orange oil. Opium, quicksilver, lime-juice, and chamomiles are cheaper to buy (p. 58).



## CORNER FOR STUDENTS.

Conducted by Leonard Dobbin, Ph.D.

### Oxidation and Reduction in Chemical Analysis.—VIII.

**OXIDISING AGENTS.**—1. **Nitric acid.**—This acid is employed in analysis as an oxidising agent for a variety of purposes, and the changes which it undergoes and the stages to which it is reduced are likewise varied. It is not often used in the preparation of solutions for analysis from substances which are insoluble in water, unless hydrochloric acid—dilute or concentrated, cold or hot—has failed to dissolve these completely, in which case the concentrated acid is usually employed in conjunction with concentrated hydrochloric acid as *aqua regia*. The liquid obtained on mixing these two acids yields, as the result of the oxidation of the hydrochloric acid by the nitric acid, nitrosyl chloride, NOCl, and free chlorine, and by the aid of these substances it is capable of attacking gold and platinum to form solutions of chlorauric and chloroplatinic acids, as well as of assisting materially in the disintegration of numerous minerals.

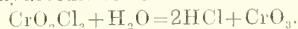
Nitric acid is probably the best all-round solvent for metals and alloys, comparatively few remaining unattacked or almost so by both the concentrated and the moderately diluted acid. Oxidation takes place in all cases, and most of the metals are obtained in solution as nitrates, but tin and antimony are converted into insoluble metastannic acid and antimony tetroxide respectively. The stage to which the nitric acid is reduced depends upon the concentration of the acid, the temperature, etc.

Prior to the systematic analysis of solutions prepared by means of nitric acid or of *aqua regia*, these should be evaporated to small volume, to expel the greater part of the free acid, and then diluted considerably with water in order to avoid the precipitation of sulphur in large quantity when hydrogen sulphide is added subsequently (compare article VI., 1. f).

After hydrogen sulphide precipitates have been removed by filtration, and the excess of hydrogen sulphide has been boiled out from the filtrate, a few drops of nitric acid are added and the mixture is boiled in order to convert ferrous into ferric salts, prior to precipitating the iron-group hydroxides by means of ammonia. This procedure is necessitated by the fact that the precipitation of iron by ammonia is incomplete if the iron is present as ferrous salt. The chemistry of the part played by the nitric acid in this conversion has been described already (see article VII., 5).

2. **Sulphuric acid.**—When unknown substances are heated with concentrated sulphuric acid, sulphur dioxide is often evolved. This may be due to the decomposition, by the stronger acid, of a sulphite or a thiosulphate; but it is also frequently a result of the reduction of the sulphuric acid, since a number of oxidisable substances are able to take away oxygen from it at an elevated temperature; while some even effect the reduction in the cold. Of the former, the heavy metals—silver, mercury, copper, etc.—also carbon and sulphur, are among the most familiar examples. Bromides and iodides are good examples of the latter, and these yield respectively hydrobromic acid and hydriodic acid, both of which further interact to some extent with the sulphuric acid. The result is that hydrobromic acid, bromine, and sulphur dioxide are produced in the case of a bromide, while hydriodic acid, iodine, sulphur dioxide, sulphur, and some hydrogen sulphide are produced in the case of an iodide. Unlike dilute nitric acid, dilute sulphuric acid does not act as an oxidising agent.

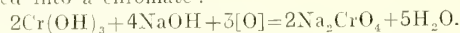
3. **Hydrogen peroxide.**—As a reagent for analytical purposes, the solution of hydrogen peroxide is used almost exclusively, in presence of dilute sulphuric acid and ether, in the well-known chromyl-chloride test for chlorides. This test depends primarily upon the formation of volatile chromyl chloride, CrO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, which, by interaction with water, yields hydrochloric acid and chromic anhydride:



The hydrogen peroxide subsequently added acts as an oxidising agent and converts the chromic anhydride into

chromium tetroxide, CrO<sub>4</sub>, and the latter dissolves in the ether, yielding the familiar blue solution. This test can be reversed so as to furnish a delicate reaction for recognising the presence of hydrogen peroxide. Valuable points in connection with the use of hydrogen peroxide as an oxidising agent are that it yields water and oxygen only, and that any excess of it which may have been added can be decomposed into these two substances by simply boiling the solution. Hydrogen peroxide is an oxidising agent, however, of rather special, and not of very general applicability.

4. **Sodium peroxide.**—This substance has of recent years found useful application in analysis in cases where vigorous oxidation in alkaline solution is required. It is dissolved by water with the giving out of much heat and with brisk evolution of oxygen and the formation of a solution containing some sodium hydroxide. It is probably best known as a reagent employed in the separation of the iron-group hydroxides for converting chromic hydroxide into sodium chromate, in which conversion, when used in sufficient excess, it supplies both the basic substance and the oxygen which are always required when a chromic compound is changed into a chromate:



Any aluminium hydroxide which may be mixed with the chromic hydroxide is converted into sodium aluminate by interaction with part of the sodium hydroxide formed when the sodium peroxide interacts with water. Ferric hydroxide, if present, remains unattacked. Sodium peroxide is sometimes used instead of potassium nitrate in admixture with sodium carbonate for fusions in which an oxidising agent is required.

## ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

### Brevities.

Mr. M. A. Adams, F.R.C.S., F.I.C., of Maidstone, is resigning on November 16, after thirty-seven years' service, his position as analyst for the County of Kent.

The annual dinner of the Preston Chemists' Association is to be held at the Bull and Royal Hotel on September 28. Mr. H. S. Freeman, Hon. Secretary, will supply particulars.

A fire broke out on August 16 at the warehouse of Mr. H. K. Woodward, chemist and druggist, Bull Green, Halifax, when damage was done to the extent of 50%. The loss is covered by insurance.

The report of the Committee on the amalgamation of the Customs and Excise Departments was issued this week. It deals mainly with the position of the staff, there having been differences in grades and in scales of payment in the two departments.

A motion before the Cardiff City Council on August 14 that counsel's opinion be taken as to the legality of the Mental Hospital Committee spending any portion of the annual grant of 400*l.* for the provision of an animal house for research purposes, was defeated by twenty votes to three.

The monthly medal competitions in connection with the London Chemists' Golfing Society will reopen the first week in September. Entries for the cup given by the President (Mr. C. A. Hill) must be made as early as possible. The first round will finish on September 18. Full particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. Beaton, 14 England Lane, N.W.

### Royal Warrants.

The following have been granted Warrants of Appointment to Queen Alexandra: *From the Lord Chamberlain's Office*—J. & E. Atkinson, Ltd. (London), perfumers; Carlo La Barbera (Naples), optician and photographer; Bruno Court (Grasse and Amsterdam), perfumer; F. G. De Faye (Jersey), manufacturer of perfumery; John Gosnell & Co., Ltd. (London), perfumers; Walter Penhaligon (London), perfumer; Eugene Rimmel, Ltd. (London), perfumers. *From the Comptroller's Office*—Apollinaris Co., Ltd. (London), purveyors of natural mineral-waters;

Cadbury Bros., Ltd. (Birmingham), cocoa and chocolate manufacturers; J. & J. Colman, Ltd. (Norwich), manufacturers of mustard, starch, and blue; J. S. Fry & Sons, Ltd. (Bristol), cocoa and chocolate manufacturers; Hooper, Struve & Co., Ltd. (London), mineral-water manufacturers; Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd. (London), manufacturers of disinfectants; A. & F. Pears, Ltd. (London), soap-manufacturers; Pope, Roach & Son (London), chemists; Roberts & Co. (London), chemists; Schweppes, Ltd. (London), mineral-water manufacturers; George Waugh & Co. (London), chemists.

#### The Apothecaries' Hall.

The Society of Apothecaries proposes to let on building lease a portion of the site of its premises adjoining Water Lane, Blackfriars, London, E.C. Some 12,000 sq. ft. are offered, and Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis & Co., the agents, state that the ground-rent is fixed at 1.150l. per annum. The Livery Hall and examination-rooms are to be retained, but the dispensary, better known as "The Apothecaries' Hall," is to be demolished, as also are two dwelling-houses in Water Lane and a two-storey warehouse at the back of the Hall. The Hall and Dispensary were founded in 1623 and were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, being rebuilt in 1670 to 1676. The question of discontinuing the dispensary is still under consideration.

#### Labelling Calcium Carbide.

An Order in Council, dated August 8, gazetted on August 15, prescribes that the label on a vessel containing calcium carbide shall bear in conspicuous characters the words "Carbide of calcium," "Dangerous if not kept dry," and the following caution: "The contents of this package are liable if brought into contact with moisture to give off a highly inflammable gas," with the addition of the name and address (a) of the consignee or owner in the case of a vessel kept, (b) of the sender in the case of a vessel sent or conveyed, (c) of the vendor in the case of a vessel sold or exposed for sale. The conditions in regard to storage of quantities of 5 lb. and 28 lb. of calcium carbide are unchanged.

#### Strike Items.

The tradesmen in the Mid-Rhondda district are asking rating authorities to exercise some consideration towards them in making demands for payment of current rates in view of their big losses during eleven months of strike.

During the strike a London chemist stated to an "Evening News" representative that his greatest sales were of milk-substitutes for children. "I am telephoning for more supplies," he said, "as my customers are afraid that the ordinary milk-supplies will be soon exhausted."

Although the railway and dock strikes are officially over, much confusion has prevailed owing to the congestion of goods at the principal centres, and the companies serving Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Newcastle, and several other large towns, have this week refused to take further goods, as there is an enormous accumulation at many of their sidings, which will take several days to work off before conditions are again normal.

The railway strike caused considerable alarm and inconvenience to Birmingham pharmacists and wholesalers, and, as both depend partially upon supplies from London and Liverpool, business was conducted with great difficulty and with short supplies. Want of spirit paralysed the lacquer industry, which is an important employer of labour in the district. Happily relief came early on Sunday morning, to the great satisfaction of the public generally and those more immediately concerned.

The gratifying news came to hand on Thursday, August 17, that after a "strike" extending over eleven months, the Mid-Rhondda workers, totalling from 15,000 to 20,000, had resolved to resume work. Some 50,000 to 60,000 people are said to have been affected in all. The strike, it will be recalled, commenced at the end of October and the beginning of November of last year, when the Tonypandy or Mid Rhondda centre was the scene of riot and disorder, and tradesmen's premises of every description were wrecked and looted. Police and military had to be imported into the district to maintain order, and they

have been there ever since, and effectually dealt with repetitions of riotous behaviour. Tradesmen are said to have given credit to the tune of 30,000l.—much of which will never be recovered—while it is calculated that rents have gone into arrears to the extent of about 80,000l. The total financial loss to the district is estimated at somewhere about 3,000,000l. Many tradesmen have "shut down" and vacated the district, while others have been ruined. It will take some time before working operations are resumed on normal lines, as the underground workings have first to be put into a satisfactory state of repair.

#### Liverpool Notes.

Attending to the wants of thirsty humanity during the strike has paid well, though no ice was to be had, but since the magistrates ordered the public-houses to close at 2 p.m. each day it has been a record time.

Considering the most exciting times we have gone through, business in the city has not been so bad. Many hundreds of Americans have been stranded here, some have spent freely, others have had only just sufficient money to reach home. All were exceedingly anxious to be "out of this."

Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, with their usual enterprise, have employed motor-vans to convey goods to their customers in different parts of the country. One has been running to London and back. For local delivery carts with a red cross painted thereon were used. Printed notices bearing the words "Drugs for Hospitals and Chemists" were also employed.

No scavenging having been done for over a week, cases of diarrhoea and sore-throats are very numerous, while the death-rate has been doubled. Moreover, when the newsboys last Thursday afternoon at two o'clock started shouting the last editions of the evening papers, electric lights and power suddenly ceased and the trams stopped running. Such is an up-to-date strike!

#### Birmingham Notes.

As a result of the "Mail's" hints about thermometers, and the marvellous weather of the present year, there has been quite a boom in the sale of these instruments.

A deputation representing the City Council and the University will visit Portsmouth on September 1 to wait upon the General Committee of the British Association and convey to them a cordial invitation to hold their meeting in Birmingham in 1913.

The "Birmingham Daily Post," in an article by "Medico" on tonics, their use and abuse, suggests that what is wanted is a nerve-sedative, which is best supplied by a visit to the doctor, but the statement is made that strychnine and iron, compound syrup of glycerophosphates, quinine with dilute mineral acid and quassia, are the best for the purpose.

#### From Various Courts.

At Highgate Police Court on August 25, Reginald Charles Roberts (18), errand-boy, East Ham, was sentenced to one month's hard labour for attempting to obtain photographic goods by false pretences from Mr. R. H. L. Watson, chemist, Stroud Green Road, N., and for stealing photographic materials from Messrs. Bishop & Vincent, Holloway (C. & D., August 19, index folio 310). The police said the boy came out of a reformatory fourteen months ago. Since then he had done no regular work, but had gone all over London committing frauds similar to those in the charge.

At Old Street Police Court, London, on August 17, the case against Alfred Mathew Ellett (73), Haggerston, of making a false declaration under the Old-age Pension Act was adjourned. It was stated that in February 1909 accused was awarded under the Act a pension of 5s. per week, which was increased to 5s. a week last February. Inquiries showed that he had earned by working for Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons 53l. 9s. 0½d., 30l. 0s. 11d., and 58l. 3s. 5d. in the years 1909, 1910, and 1911 respectively. Solicitor for accused said that his client was incapacitated for long periods and had drawn no pension during the present year. He had merely obtained the book of orders as a safeguard against falling out of work.



At Lambeth Police Court last week, Edward Peach (22), naval signalman, was charged with being drunk and, further, with attempting to commit suicide by trying to take salts of lemon.—Mr. T. Fullwood, assistant at a chemist's shop in Walworth Road, stated that he sold prisoner a pennyworth of salts of lemon for cleaning a hat. After being served, prisoner opened the packet and "was going to commit suicide" when witness pushed it out of his hand.—Mr. Baggallay: "You say, 'Going to commit suicide.' What did he do? Look at it?"—Witness: "He was going to take it."—Mr. Baggallay: "How could you suppose what he was going to do? Did he say what he was going to do?" Witness: "No, he didn't."—Mr. Baggallay: "Then what do you mean? You shouldn't jump to conclusions without any reason whatever."—Sergeant Cullum said he was called to the shop, and found prisoner lying on the floor helplessly drunk. Accused was ordered to pay the doctor's fee of 3s. 6d.

#### Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The St. Pancras analyst reports that all the drug-samples (forty-five) analysed during 1910 were genuine.

Thirty-six drug-samples were submitted for analysis in Marylebone last year, and all of them proved to be genuine.

The Kent county analyst in his last quarterly report states that out of thirty-eight samples examined only one was defective. This was a mercury-ointment sample containing only 14.4 instead of 48.5 per cent. of mercury.

The Stepney analyst during 1910 reported upon thirty samples of pepper, three each of arrowroot and camphorated oil, two each of ginger and milk of sulphur, and one each of castor oil, ammoniated tincture of quinine, lime-water, crushed linseed, and powdered rhubarb. All were genuine except the ammoniated-quinine sample (5 per cent. deficient in quinine; vendor cautioned), a sample of lime-water (75 per cent. deficient in lime; retailer fined 10s. and costs), and a pepper sample (containing 20 per cent. of foreign starch; vendor fined 2l., with 23s. costs).

The Southwark medical officer (Dr. Thomas Millson), in his annual report, states that 1,658 samples were examined during 1910. Of these 115 were drug-samples of which four samples, representing flowers of sulphur, "powdered" sulphur, olive oil, and nut oil, were adulterated. The vendor of an adulterated olive-oil sample was fined; but a summons for selling nut oil, alleged to contain 40 per cent. of oil foreign to nut oil, was dismissed by the Magistrate on the grounds that there was no standard for nut oil, and that the public analyst's certificate did not state the nature of the adulterant.

The Kingston-upon-Hull analyst (Mr. A. R. Tankard, F.I.C.) in his report for 1910 states that twenty-nine formal and thirteen informal drug-samples were examined during the year. Of the formal samples nine were adulterated: three of grey powder 14 to 15 per cent. deficient in mercury, and one of grey powder which consisted of commercial phenazone, a camphorated-oil sample 18.7 per cent. deficient in camphor and containing 0.6 per cent. of water, a sample of white precipitate which consisted of precipitated chalk, and another of white precipitate ointment which proved to be zinc ointment. In regard to grey powder Mr. Tankard states:

Three samples of this drug were seriously deficient in mercury, and even the three passed as genuine samples were slightly below the standard of composition—namely, 33.3 per cent. of mercury. The vendor of the sample of phenazone, sold as "grey powder," was convicted and fined 20l., the Stipendiary Magistrate remarking that it was a serious case. It is often stated that the mercury, being the heavy constituent of grey powder, settles out more or less to the bottom of the containing vessel, and I therefore made the following experiment. My sample was prepared by a pharmacist, and was found on assay by me to contain 32 per cent. of mercury. For many weeks the bottle containing the sample was almost daily tapped vigorously many times on the shelf, so as to cause, if possible, a subsidence of the heavy constituent, and after five months (141 days) the top and bottom portions were carefully separated and analysed. The results were:

Original sample	...	...	32.0 per cent. mercury
Top layer	...	...	31.5 do. do.
Bottom layer	...	...	31.0 do. do.

Allowing for slight errors in the analysis of such a preparation, the figures do not afford any evidence that the mercury

in a well-made preparation will largely separate. If there be anything in the contention at all it can only be a slight tendency, and after the lapse of a very long time. I noted that the powder settles down in the bottle and becomes hardened, and in these circumstances it is difficult to see how any considerable separation of mercury can take place.

#### Contracts.

Hyde Town Council.—Mr. R. S. White, chemist, Hyde, for the supply of drugs to the hospital.

Spalding Guardians.—Of two tenders received for the supply of 40 oz. of quinine, that of Messrs. Donington & Co., at 11d. per oz., was accepted.

#### Pharmaceutical Teaching at Leicester.

In conjunction with the Leicester Chemists' Association the headmaster of the local Technical Schools has been devising a scheme for extending the classes hitherto held at the Technical Schools for pharmaceutical students, and in consequence, during the coming session complete courses of classes in pharmacy, materia medica, botany, chemistry (practical and theoretical), and physics will be available for the Minor examination. Mr. S. F. Burford, F.C.S., who was honorary instructor in pharmacy and materia medica last year, has resigned, and the Schools Committee have asked for applications for the post of paid teacher. We understand there are several applicants, but the appointment has not yet been decided. The local Chemists' Association have worked hard for some years towards making the facilities afforded for pharmaceutical education in Leicester equal to that in any other provincial town. The Association will continue to offer prizes for competition among the pharmaceutical students of the year. The members of the Association are chiefly troubled at present with the difficulty of obtaining apprentices who have passed a Preliminary equivalent. Latin seems the great stumbling-block. It is surprising, but a fact, that there are very few facilities, excepting at about one school, the Wyggeston Grammar School, for boys to acquire a knowledge of that language. The Association are endeavouring to remedy this state of things by getting at the local Education Committee to establish Latin classes at the secondary schools.

#### Cricket.

"Allenburys" C.C. v. Du Cros C.C.—This cricket match was the final in the London Business Houses' Cup Competition, and was played on the Gasworks' Ground, at Edmonton, on August 19. The Du Cros proved to be a much stronger team than their opponents, scoring 104 for 5 wickets against 53 by the Allenburys' men. Stokes (captain) with 22 was top scorer for the losers.

A garden party was held in the grounds of the Wellcome Club and Institute on August 19, when there was a good attendance of members and friends. During the afternoon a cricket match between ladies and gentlemen was played, the latter being penalised by having to use the left hand in fielding, by bowling underhand, and by batting with broomsticks. The gentlemen eventually won by a considerable margin of runs. Other attractions included tennis, quoits, clock golf, croquet, etc. Tea was served in the orchard garden by the club staff. After tea a thunderstorm necessitated an adjournment to the assembly hall, where an excellent variety programme was provided. The proceedings terminated with a dance.

Leicester Pharmacy Athletic Club.—Despite holidays taking some of the better men away, the cricket team has done fairly well. On August 3 the local Y.M.C.A. men beat them, scoring 144 for 5 wickets, against 93 by the chemists (Chell 21, Page 19 and Peberdy 16). On August 10 the L.P.A.C. were beaten by the local police on the home ground after one of the best and most exciting games the team has played. Batting first, the chemists made 89 (Fry 30). The Police required 16 to win when the last man went in, but this wicket only fell at 93, the Police thus winning by 4 runs. Chell and Fry bowled well. On August 17 the return match with the Leicester Thursday C.C. was played. Again Pharmacy batted first, but lost 3 wickets for only 9 runs; but the innings did not close before 98 runs had been scored (Marfitt 28 and Tomlin 22). H. Chell and T. C. Peberdy then dismissed the Thursday men in 9 overs for 39 runs, Chell taking 4 wickets for 14 and Peberdy 6 for 17.

## IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

### Brevities.

Mr. S. P. Boyd, D.L., of Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., has been appointed a director of the Royal Bank of Ireland.

Mr. Henry Carson Smyth, Ph.C., dispenser at Stevens' Hospital, Kingsbridge, Dublin, has passed the Final Professional examination of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in Ireland. A similar distinction has been gained at the last sessional examination of the same licensing body by Mr. M. A. O'Callaghan, Ph.C., Castlemahon, Newcastle West, co. Limerick.

A meeting of the committee of the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland was summoned for August 17 at 11 Waring Street, Belfast, but owing to the absence of a quorum the meeting, which had been convened for the consideration of various matters in connection with pharmacy laws, fell through. The members who arrived were Messrs. Carse, McDowell, Suffern, and Macauley, with Mr. W. J. Rankin (Hon. Secretary).

Several important changes have taken place as a result of the liquidation of John Clarke & Co., Ltd., wholesale druggists, Corporation Street, Belfast. Messrs. Elliott, Thompson, Blair, and McCormick, four of the late company's travellers, have formed a limited company, under the style of Elliott Thompson & Blair, Ltd., and are carrying on the business in the premises at Corporation Street. They intend to devote their dealings chiefly to the grocery and heavy-goods side. Mr. Fred Storey, who was drug-traveller to Messrs. Clarke, has commenced business as Fred Storey, Ltd., wholesale druggists, 14 Alfred Street, Belfast, the company having been registered with a capital of 3,500/. The company intends to devote special attention to drug-orders from medical men.

## SCOTTISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

### Aberdeen and the North.

The doctor's surgery to be opened at Torry has no connection with the Northern Co-operative Society.

The College of Preceptors have decided to make Aberdeen an examination centre for the Professional Preliminary examination. The first examination is to be held on September 5, 6, and 7.

The house of Mr. Andrew Craig, retired chemist, which is situated in Rubislaw Den South, at the corner of Bay View Road, was broken into on August 20, but the intruder was caught by the police while still on the premises. Mr. Craig was away at the time.

In the new prospectus of the Robert Gordon's College School of Pharmacy, which has just been issued, it is pointed out that the evening classes of study carried on in the school have been revised with the view of bringing forward students by a regular plan from the point at which they enter upon apprenticeship until their preparation for their Final examinations.

### Edinburgh and District Notes.

Mr. T. S. Baird, F.R.M.S., F.S.M.C., of the Glasgow College of Optics, 180 West Regent Street, has commenced practical classes in Edinburgh.

Haining Loch is being purified from vegetable matter by the copper-sulphate process. Half a ton of the chemical has been dissolved in the loch, and the result is that to all appearance the weeds have been killed.

Advertisements in the daily papers refer to "Inman's now amalgamated with Boots' Cash Chemists," but the wording round the company's new premises in Prince's Street, Edinburgh, bears in large letters the words "Boots' Cash Chemists." It looks like a process of gradually ringing the new name into prominence.

Penicuik, a Midlothian town of 4,000 inhabitants, is a favourite beauty-spot and a capital centre for holiday

excursions. Mr. John P. Thomson, chemist and druggist, High Street, Penicuik, has just brought out a second edition of his "Handy Guide to Penicuik and Neighbourhood," which is much used by tourists. The guide contains a large number of illustrations and conveys the right sort of information required by visitors.

Without doubt it is exceedingly fortunate that our local strike was of such brief duration. Business of all kinds has been very poor for a long time, and local shopkeepers especially are in the midst of the seven lean years. It does not, therefore, require a very vivid imagination to picture the amount of unemployment that would have been caused in practically every calling had a strike extending over several weeks been the outcome of the labour troubles.

### Glasgow and the West.

Business generally is quiet in Glasgow at present.

Mr. W. W. Wilson, chemist and druggist, Great Western Road, has had his shop-windows modernised.

The drug-business of the late Mr. Chalmers, Main Street, Maryhill, has been taken over by a medical man.

Messrs. Cockburn & Co., Ltd., St. Enoch Square, have at present a fine display of sponges and loofahs in their windows.

The business of Mr. Munroe, Main Street, Maryhill, carried on under the name of the "Maryhill Drug-store," has been closed.

Mr. John Robertson has taken up the work of the late Mr. Jas. Cairncross, of Messrs. Lorimer & Moyes, Ltd., druggists' sundriesmen, 191 Argyle Street, Glasgow.

West of Scotland chemists were much inconvenienced by the recent railway strike. It is an open secret that one or two firms had big expectations, having made a "corner" in preparations in great demand, but unfortunately for them peace was declared early.

In Greenock, at the request of the Post Office authorities, the telegram received declaring a settlement of the strike was exhibited at the Blackhall Street premises of Messrs. McNaught Bros., chemists, early on Sunday morning. Large crowds congregated to read and discuss the news.

### Dundee and District.

The dispenser at the Dundee Royal Infirmary was unable to get a regular supply of drugs during the recent strike, and his stock was rapidly diminishing when the dispute ended.

Should medical men be allowed to exceed the speed-limit when on professional business was a question raised a few days ago at Dundee Sheriff Court. It appears that on August 11 Dr. Tulloch, of Dundee, while hurrying back from Carnoustie to another call at Dundee, travelled at fourteen instead of ten miles an hour through Barry village. No penalty was imposed.

## FRENCH NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

THE HEAT.—We have been experiencing the heat in Paris quite as much as the English have in London. The daily papers keep their readers well informed of the vagaries of the thermometer. One of the papers, "Le Petit Journal," published a coloured picture of a man, suffering from sunstroke, being carried into a pharmacy. The pharmacist stands at the door with a bottle of smelling-salts ready to revive the victim of the heat.

PHARMACY STUDENTS' STATISTICS.—The statistics of the French Schools of Pharmacy, etc., are sufficiently suggestive to render comment unnecessary. *Superior Schools*: Paris, 262 (298 in 1910); Montpellier, 53 (47); Nancy, 17 (22). *Mixed Faculties*: Bordeaux, 61 (66 in 1910); Lille, 57 (69); Lyons, 87 (87); Toulouse, 51 (48); Algiers, 9 (14). *Other Schools*: Marseilles, 43 (43); Nantes, 32 (29); Rennes, 28 (36). At Amiens, Angers, Besançon, Caen, Clermont, Dijon, Grenoble, Limoges, Poitiers, Reims, Rouen, and Tours the inscriptions were a dozen or less. The grand total is 793 for 1911 (856 in 1910), of whom 28 are entered for the second-class (local) diploma.



**THE SALE OF OPIUM.**—M. Catalogne precedes the draft law regulating the sale of opium, which has been presented to the French Senate, by a report on foreign legislation in this matter. He also quotes the decree of the Governor-General of Indo-China in 1907, prohibiting the opening of opium-smoking dens in Annam or Tonkin, or of new establishments of this kind in Cochin China or Cambodia, and abolishing the sale of "Yunnan" opium in the two latter countries and also in Annam, except in three provinces. In Madagascar opium regulations exist. In France, after the report of M. Guignard to the Superior Council of Public Hygiene and consultation of the Conseil d'Etat, a Presidential decree regulating the sale, purchase, and use of opium and its extracts was signed in 1908. In spite of all this the French Colonial Infantry contains 15 per cent. of opium-smokers and the Foreign Legion 20 per cent.

**EARLY APOTHECARY'S BILLS.**—M. Henri Granel, Doctor in Pharmacy, has discovered a curious invoice for drugs supplied by Jacobus Gaufredis Isnardi, "physicus et apothecarius," of Avignon, to Pope Jean XIII. in 1324. It will be remembered that in the Middle Ages Avignon was for some time the seat of the Papacy; the gigantic "Palace of the Popes" is still one of the principal features of this ancient city:

*Du 23 juillet 1324.*

Tradidimus Domino Gaufredo, episcopo Cavallienisi, Domini Pape fisico:

Pro pulveribus unius electuarii XXVI solidos, II denarios Vien.

Pro duabus libris coliadri preparati.

Pro tribus brustiis pictis.

Pro duabus libris liquoricie cisse, medicina Domini nostri.

Pro duabus libris feniculi pulverizati.

Pro duabus ceris positis in quodam cofino et quadam coxa.

Et pro XVIII libris aque rosace, amforis parvis necessariis et IV amforis.

LVII sol II den. Vien.

The following is of rather later date, but is also from Avignon. The old currency of livres, sols, and deniers has some analogy to the modern English *l. s. d.* The "den. Vien." is the denier or denary of Vienna:

Pro uno libra cum media spice nardi precio X sol.

Pro II uncis ambre fine, precio VII lib. X sol.

Pro X libris anisi, brustiis massapinis, banastis, cordis, tela, expensis serpellature et portature, et pro IV pellibus precio LXXV librarum V sol.

Pro XXV libris zinziberis electi precio VII lib. X sol. Tur.

Pro tota solvimus dicto Francisco CXXVIII lib. XVII sol. IX den. tur. parv.

**DRUG SUPPLY TO THE ARMY.**—The attention of the General Association of French Pharmacists has been called to the undue facilities afforded for obtaining medicaments from army pharmacies. The decree signed by the Minister of War in 1891 authorised officers and non-commissioned officers to obtain drugs, etc., "in medical doses" for the use of themselves and families at cost-price from the nearest military hospital. Every such demand has to be approved by the army pharmacist and the medicaments delivered by him. Since then numerous abuses have crept in. Medicines are delivered not only in hospitals, but from regimental stores in forts and camps. Officers and non-coms, simply passing through a town and there on the Retired List are allowed to be served at the hospital. The pharmaceutical associations of the Cher and Pyrénées-Orientales Departments petitioned the War Department in vain; officers and sergeants continue to obtain medicaments practically as they please. Nominally, of course, these are for their family, but what the pharmacists complain of is the total lack of control. The articles are not delivered in medical doses, but often in much larger quantities. The officers draw up the list themselves, sometimes asking an army surgeon to formally sign the document. How can he refuse a comrade, possibly a superior? Thus tincture of iodine is delivered by the litre, cod-liver oil and medicated wine in  $\frac{1}{2}$ -gal. bottles, camphor in 4-lb. or 6-lb. packets, calcium glycerophosphate by the  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. The matter being taken up by the General Association, the War Office demanded to know "the names of officers or others having procured State medicaments for persons outside the army." The Association refused to act as informer and did not reply.

## AUSTRALASIAN NEWS.

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of nine Societies of Chemists in Australia and New Zealand, as well as to other Chemists in business there.

### The Commonwealth.

**OPIUM REGULATIONS.**—A Customs bye-law published in the "Gazette" of July 1 modifies the bye-law of December 12, 1910, by adding a new paragraph. The applicant for a licence for the importation of opium for medicinal purposes only, must also, prior to the issue of the licence, give an undertaking in writing that he will be responsible for the making of reasonable inquiries as to the purpose and destination of all opium sold, with a view of assuring himself that the same is intended for *bona-fide* medicinal purposes only.

**THE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS** for April 1911 show that the exports of Australian origin were valued at 4,553,993*l.*, compared with 4,549,068*l.* for the corresponding month of last year. The imports of drugs and chemicals were valued at 97,755*l.*, and in April 1910 79,695*l.* The imports and exports for May show that the exports of Australian origin were valued at 4,236,228*l.*, compared with 3,959,985*l.* for the corresponding month of last year. The imports of drugs and chemicals were valued at 79,612*l.*, compared with 90,758*l.* for the same month of 1910.

### New South Wales.

**PHARMACY BILL.**—The following is the text of the Pharmacy Bill introduced into the House of Representatives on June 8 and referred to in our issue of August 12 (index folio 265).

#### Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Pharmacy (Amendment) Act, 1911, and shall be construed with the Pharmacy Act, 1897.

Amendment of Section 11 of the Pharmacy Act, 1897.

2. Section 11 of the Pharmacy Act, 1897, is amended—

(a) In paragraph (g) (1), by omitting the words "an examination, called the Preliminary examination, before examiners appointed under this Act or acknowledged by the Board, in his knowledge of arithmetic and the English and Latin languages," and substituting therefor the words "a Preliminary examination as prescribed by regulation under this Act"; and

(b) by adding the following words at the end of that section: "Provided further that the Board may at its discretion still register a person under Sub-section (d) if any such person applies and tenders the prescribed fee for registration before the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, and the Board is satisfied that he is otherwise qualified under the said sub-section, and has failed or omitted to obtain registration before the expiration of the period prescribed as aforesaid only by reason of some accident or inadvertence, or through circumstances beyond his control, and the Minister approves the registration of such person."

The first part of the second clause will give the Board power to make the Matriculation, or any other examination, the entrance examination for pharmacy. The second paragraph will give the Board power to register any apprentices who were entitled to take advantage of the law of 1893, but for some reason failed to do so. But application will have to be made before June 30, 1912.

### Victoria.

**DEFECTIVE DRUGS.**—There were two prosecutions in the Prahan City Court on June 12 under the Food and Drugs Act. Mr. H. W. Wolfenden, pharmaceutical chemist, was fined 2*l.*, and 3*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* costs, for selling cream of tartar below standard. In the other case, Mr. T. E. Johns, pharmaceutical chemist, South Yarra, was fined 2*l.*, and 4*l.* costs, for selling defective sweet spirit of nitre, although the defence called several witnesses who bore testimony as to the readily decomposable nature of the spirit. One of these witnesses was Mr. A. R. Bailey, who was a member of the committee that fixed the standard, but he stated that the B.P. standards were taken in *toto* with the exception of that for eucalyptus oil.



## SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS.

(From "C. & D." Correspondents.)

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of the seven Societies and Associations of Chemists in British South Africa, as well as to other chemists in business there.

### Orange Free State.

**POISONING.**—Mrs. H. Pelsler, of Goodhope farm, Marquard, committed suicide on July 20 by taking a quantity of Cooper's dip.

**POISONING CHARGE.**—At the Ladybrand Police Court on July 17, Charles Maher was charged with attempted murder by giving Johannes de Beer a poisoned cigar to smoke. It was alleged by the prosecution that the cigar, which the would-be victim partly smoked, contained strychnine, and on this point Mr. F. E. Holborow, chemist and druggist, of Ladybrand, produced his poisons-book showing that on May 30 he sold a drachm of strychnine to accused, who had signed the book. Accused said he wanted the poison for killing mice. The hearing was adjourned.

### Pharmaceutical Society of the Transvaal.

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of the Transvaal was held at the Trocadero, Johannesburg, on July 27, with Mr. A. Macdonald, President, in the chair, and among the forty members and associates present were: Messrs. C. Keir, A. Purnell, T. E. Jolly, J. Johnston, J. Christie, A. Rennie, A. W. Ashkanazy, J. M. Anderson, F. Cathcart, F. Ingram, W. H. Cross, W. B. Marshall, J. P. Jones, H. M. Hetherington, F. G. Carnegie, J. A. Williamson, J. S. Warren, W. C. McRobb, P. W. Drummond, J. S. Sanderson, and H. Whieldon (acting Hon. Secretary). The President, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, referred to the fact that they had now 168 members, the highest total recorded in the history of the Society. Twenty new members and associates joined the Society during the past year. The retail Price List had been revised, and all the chemists within the Johannesburg municipality had agreed to adhere to the prices fixed upon. The committee had also worked hard in the cause of pharmaceutical education, and a scheme was under consideration which, when completed, would enable all young pharmacists to secure a thorough training. Mr. Macdonald concluded by expressing appreciation of the work done by Mr. McGeorge during the past two years. Mr. W. H. Cross was elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Society. The following members were elected to the committee: Messrs. C. Keir, H. Whieldon, A. Purnell, A. Rennie, J. Christie, W. Easterbrook, J. Johnston, and E. L. Ralling, representative Johannesburg; while Messrs. B. O. Jones, E. J. Adeock, and W. Whyte represented the country districts. The committee then retired, and upon their return the President announced that Mr. W. Easterbrook had been elected President and Mr. E. L. Ralling Vice-President for the coming year. Mr. J. S. Warren proposed, and Mr. A. Rennie seconded, a vote of thanks to the retiring President for his services during the past year. Mr. Macdonald suitably replied, and a vote of thanks to the committee concluded the proceedings.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

The balance-sheet submitted showed that the total receipts, including a cash balance brought forward of 169*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, amounted to 303*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*. The expenditure was 119*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, leaving the sum of 184*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* to the credit of the Society, making, with the fixed deposit (105*l.* 10*s.*), a total of 289*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*. The committee have succeeded in having the proposed imposition of a metric system on chemists shelved, at least for the present. A sum of 10*l.* has been donated to the Seymour Library, and the President has been elected a member of the Library Committee. The rules and regulations of the Society have been revised, a copy being sent to every member. The question of retail prices had occupied a great deal of time and work, and it is hoped that the committee's tact and perseverance have secured a lasting agreement. The question of the Benefit and Benevolent Societies has also been dealt with, but the result as yet is not quite satisfactory. The

report also includes warnings in regard to complying with the Shop Hours Act, particulars as to the provision of pharmaceutical education, and details in regard to social functions. The committee regretted the resignation of Mr. McGeorge, who has left the Colony, and the report paid tribute to his devotion to duty during his two years of office.

## COLONIAL AND FOREIGN NEWS.

**CHOLERA IN ITALY.**—The state of the public health in Italy is causing grave concern to the authorities, cholera being reported as prevalent in Naples and Leghorn. At the latter city fifty cases were reported on August 20, and there has been a general exodus of the wealthier classes from the town. The municipal authorities, with the aid of the Government, are taking energetic steps to combat the epidemic, and disinfectants and medicines are being distributed free. The services of Professor Ivo Bandi, a well-known sanitary authority, have been secured, and two squadrons of the Public Benefit Society have left Florence to lend their aid. Meantime, with a view to calming the general fears, the Sindaco has issued a reassuring public manifesto. The authorities are very reticent, but it is expected that King Victor Emmanuel will visit Leghorn shortly.

**PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS IN THE ARGENTINE.**—With reference to the notices which appeared in the *C. & D.* of January 28 (p. 106) and April 22 (p. 567) respecting an Argentine decree of December 10, 1910, requiring that all imported pharmaceutical products and mineral-waters shall be declared not only according to their tariff classification, but also with their full specifications, such as the names of the manufacturer, the product, and the principal component materials, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect, that the operation of the provisions in question has been suspended for a further period of six months (*i.e.*, until December 31 next) so far as regards mineral-waters only. The requirements of the decree of December 10, 1910, were to be enforced as regards other pharmaceutical products from July 31.

**A STYRIAN SUPERSTITION.**—To the present day a superstition reigns in Eastern Styria that a pharmacist has the right to kill annually one man and one woman in order to prepare certain medicines from the bodies, and an Austrian pharmacist has been the unfortunate object of barbarous legend. One evening in February a peasant youth came to the pharmacy in Pöllau to have a prescription made up. On leaving the pharmacy the owner carried a lighted lantern to show the youth the way out. Suddenly a gust of wind blew the light out, and in groping about in the dark the pharmacist inadvertently struck the youth. The latter, remembering the superstition, thought he was about to be killed and ran away. The shock to his imagination resulted in an illness, and both the youth and his parents spoke to their neighbours of the supposed attempt at murder. This resulted in the pharmacist being hovecotted by the populace. In consequence of this unfounded accusation the pharmacist took proceedings against the youth and his parents, with the result that the young man was condemned to fourteen days' imprisonment. The parents were exculpated from all blame, as the Court was of opinion that the superstitious belief in question was so strongly rooted that these elderly persons really believed their son's statement, and repeated it without malice. The pharmacist has appealed against the decision.

**PRODUCTION AND COST OF RADIUM.**—According to an American Consular report, the infant radium industry, though without protection, is getting along very well. This report says that it costs \$2,000 to manufacture a gram of radium, and it sells at \$80,000. The production in 1910 was 1.92 gram. Of the production in 1910, \$15,000 worth was produced for industrial purposes and \$139,000 to be used in therapeutics.

**DRUGS FOR VENEZUELA.**—The following is from the report by H.M. Vice-Consul at Caracas on the trade of Venezuela in 1909-10, which will shortly be issued: Drugs hold the fourth place in the list of imports into Venezuela. British exporters should give their attention to this line of business, as the demand for drugs is large and constant. In Caracas, a town built in squares of about 120 yards in length, there is a chemist's shop at practically every other corner.

## DEMERARA DOINGS.

**PERSONAL.**—Mr. Smart-Dalglish, manager of Smart-Dalglish & Co., Ltd., is at present in England on a short business visit. He leaves again for Demerara in September.

**PILFERING PATENTS.**—Detectives have been making searches among the stocks of small chemists for patent medicines, etc., some having been missed from the stock of various large firms.

**A SERIOUS CHARGE.**—At Georgetown Police Court on July 31, a native chemist and druggist named Fisher was remanded on a charge of unlawfully administering a drug to one Miriam Devonish. Bail was allowed in the sum of \$500.

**AN EARLY-CLOSING BILL** has been drafted and will come before the Court of Policy at the next sitting. It has caused any amount of controversy, but exactly how it will affect chemists it is too early to say. Anyway, the hours in Demerara are not over hard—6.30 A.M. to 5 P.M.—but there is no half-holiday, while the annual one, night, Sunday, and holiday duty have to be divided up among the staff. This usually amounts to every third night or Sunday on duty.

**STOLEN PATENTS.**—At the Georgetown City Police Court on July 27, Daniel Howard, chemist and druggist, Stabroek Pharmacy, was charged with being in the unlawful possession of an empty case and fifty-three bottles of Eno's Fruit Salt. Sergeant-Major Franklin stated that on July 24 he entered the defendant's yard and found there a case marked "Eno's Fruit Salt, Fruit Salt Works, London," the number 965, a piece of board marked "S. D. & Co.," and another "Georgetown, Demerara." All the pieces fitted together. Police-constable Gittens described finding forty-eight packages of Eno's Fruit Salt on a wardrobe. Mr. Margach, of Messrs. Smart-Dalglish & Co., stated that two cases, numbered 965 and 966, out of a recent consignment of Eno's Fruit Salt had been missed from the store. None of the consignment had been sold to other chemists. The value of a case was \$48. Mr. Howard, for the defence, said defendant had been carrying on the business, which he bought from the late owner, Mr. Cendrecourt, for \$1,500, less 20 per cent., for nearly three years. There was nearly two gross of Eno's Fruit Salt in stock when he took over the store. Accused bought goods locally from Smart-Dalglish's, Scott's, Smith Bros., etc., and also imported them. Messrs. Smart-Dalglish had been in the habit of sending him goods in boxes. In March 1910 there was an entry in the stock-book of eighteen dozen bottles of Eno's Fruit Salt. It did not follow that because the box bore Smart-Dalglish's mark, or because it had a certain number on it, that the defendant was in the unlawful possession of it, or that the things which were found in his premises belonged to that firm. There was not a tittle of evidence that the defendant knew of the existence of the box and that it went there containing fruit salt. His Worship, Mr. J. K. D. Hill, in convicting defendant, told him that his position was a peculiar one. A man in his position, proprietor of a drug-shop, ought to know better than to encourage thieves to bring stolen property to him and dispose of it, when he well knew that it was stolen. He thought justice would be met by imposing a fine of \$150, or, in default, six months' imprisonment with hard labour. Defendant was given two weeks to pay the fine. A second charge of being in the unlawful possession of goods was withdrawn. This referred to nine bottles of Mennen's powder, six tins of Talcum powder, one box and two bottles of eau de Cologne, five bottles Sanatogen, eight bottles Canadian healing-oil, four bottles pain-relief, twelve bottles Nerviline, twenty-one bottles Catarrhzone, four dozen Morse's Pills, thirty-seven bottles Doan's Backache Pills, seven bottles solution cod-liver oil, twenty-one bottles gin pills, eighteen bottles Phosferine, six bottles Kellogg's asthma-remedy, three pots pomade, one package cosmetic, nine packages Vinolia cream ointment, thirteen boxes Matricario powder, twelve bottles Atkinson's preservative powder, and two packages cordial.

## OUR AMERICAN LETTER.

(Special Correspondence to the "C. & D.")

**Mr. Joseph L. Lemberger**, Lebanon, Pa., who was President of the American Pharmaceutical Association a number of years ago, has now been nominated by the Pennsylvania State Pharmaceutical Association for the same office. It is a matter of more than ordinary interest that Mr. Lemberger has been Treasurer of the latter Association ever since its organisation—a period lasting beyond a quarter of a century. From the fact that his partner in business has been made Treasurer this year it looks as if the members expected to put Mr. Lemberger back into the old berth after he had served his term as President.

**Health Boards.**—Many of the State food and drug laws are enforced by the State Boards of Health instead of by the State Boards of Pharmacy. Hence the movement which has been initiated to have pharmacists represented on these Health Boards. The Indiana State Pharmaceutical Association, at its recent annual meeting, decided to urge the Governor to appoint Mr. F. W. Meissner, one of the trustees of the United States Pharmacopeia, to the Indiana Board of Health. In Massachusetts, on the other hand, the Association has sent three names to the Governor, from which it is hoped that he will make at least one appointment.

**A General Recipe Book.**—The Council of the American Pharmaceutical Association is considering the advisability of publishing a general "recipe book" as a sort of supplement to the National Formulary. Since the N.F. became a legal standard under the Food and Drugs Act, it has been felt that a number of the pharmaceutical monstrosities in it ought to be thrown out, and the purpose of the general recipe book would be to publish such material as well as to give space to a big collection of other miscellaneous formulas of interest to the trade. The proposition is not viewed with favour all round, although a special committee of the Council has approved of it. The question will probably come up for discussion at the Boston meeting of the A.P.A., which is being held this month.

**Curative Claims.**—It has already been reported that the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that the Food and Drugs Act cannot be held to apply to exaggerated curative claims made for medicinal products. Prior to that decision, however, a number of judgments were rendered in the lower courts against proprietary-medicine manufacturers on this ground, but publicity has only been given to these judgments recently, some weeks after the Supreme Court decision put a stop to the whole thing. Among other instances was a case where judgment was rendered against the manufacturers of an aphrodisiac. The product was declared by the Government to be of no use in the direction indicated and to possess none of the properties claimed for it on the label. The defendants pleaded guilty and paid a fine of \$400.

**A Compulsory Curriculum.**—There has always been a good deal of difference of opinion over the desirability of extending the graduation prerequisite movement, known in Great Britain as the enforced or compulsory curriculum. Recently, to find out the sentiment in Michigan, it was decided by the State Pharmaceutical Association to take a referendum of the druggists of the State. Unfortunately only 260 votes were cast, probably because most of the chemists did not notice the ballots enclosed in some other material posted at the same time. Of the 260 chemists, however, 200 expressed themselves in favour of a graduation prerequisite law for Michigan. A Bill to attain the object failed in the Michigan Legislature two years ago, but another one will probably now be introduced next Session. In the meantime the prerequisite movement is being earnestly discussed in at least five or six States.

**Methyl alcohol** is usually termed "wood alcohol" in commerce, and because of the name "alcohol" in the title many ignorant people have thought it was a cheap form of ordinary ethyl alcohol, and in prohibition sections have purchased it for drinking purposes. The results have frequently been fatal, and in other instances have caused a temporary or a permanent blindness due to paralysis of the optic nerve. Hence the enactment of a law in Minnesota last year providing that methyl alcohol must be called "wood naphtha" in trade, and must have this name given to it in catalogues and on labels. It is hoped in this way that the laity will become unfamiliar with the term "wood alcohol," and in calling for "wood naphtha" will not fall into the error of assuming that the substance may be used as a beverage. The New York State Pharmaceutical Association, at its recent annual meeting, agreed to endeavour to promote legislation like that in Minnesota, and the National Association of Retail Druggists believe that a national law along this line ought to be enacted.



## LEGAL REPORTS.

### TRADE LAW.

**Compensation Case.**—In the City of London Court on August 23, before Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., Albert E. Aston, packer, of Haggerston, claimed damages under the Workmen's Compensation Act against Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., druggists, of Bartholomew Close, London, E.C. It seemed that on the evening of May 31 Aston was accidentally locked in the warehouse of the defendants, by whom he was employed. A thunderstorm came on, and the lightning appeared to have had such an effect upon him that he was dazed when taken out of the warehouse the same evening and removed to the hospital. He was said to have either been struck by the lightning or suffered a nervous shock as the result of finding himself locked in while the storm was raging. Aston was stated to be still incapacitated in consequence, and claimed 9s. 6d. a week until he became well, that being half his wages. Defendants now submitted to an award, and an order was made accordingly that 9s. 6d. weekly should be paid to Aston until further order.

**Arbitration and Legal Proceedings.**—In the City of London Court on August 17, before his Honour Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., the case of Schaefer v. Wilson was mentioned. The plaintiff, Mr. Paul E. R. Schaefer, manufacturer of Radua metal-polish, 10 Leeds Place, Tollington Park, London, N., sued Mr. F. Wilson, 115 Fore Street, London, E.C., for 10l. 8s. 3d. under an agreement. Mr. Ronald Smith, defendant's counsel, said he desired to make an application to set aside the judgment which the plaintiff had obtained on July 28. Plaintiff issued a summons on June 30, and the defendant, thinking he had an excellent defence, resolved to defend it. It was afterwards decided to submit the matter to an arbitrator, and it was explained by the plaintiff that the arbitration would end the matter. The arbitrator awarded the plaintiff the amount of his claim, and gave effect to the defence, which was that the defendant had not been allowed an opportunity to earn certain fees, and that the money claimed did not become payable until October, by which time the arbitrator thought that the defendant would have had a reasonable opportunity to turn the plaintiff's business into a company, and by earning the fees which the defendant conceived himself entitled to. The award of the arbitrator was taken up by the defendant on July 19, and he paid the fees of two guineas. Plaintiff wrote on the following day to the arbitrator, telling him that he only agreed to arbitrate on the question whether the defendant was indebted to him for the amount in dispute, and not as to when the amount was to be paid. Without notice to the defendant the plaintiff came to the Court, and, without saying a word about the arbitration proceedings, he snatched a judgment in the action. Mr. Oddy, for plaintiff, said that his solicitor did not know anything about the arbitration proceedings. He was not present and had nothing to do with them. There was no submission to arbitration in the first place. The terms of the reference were never put into writing. Judge Lumley Smith said that the judgment must be set aside. If it was a valid arbitration it would be a good defence to the action. Defendant would have leave to set up a special defence and to raise a counterclaim.

## LIMITED COMPANIES.

### Company News.

**PAINE & CO., LTD.**—The directors' report shows that the gross profits on sales for the year ended May 31 amounted to £4,282, and the net profit £1,118. It is proposed to pay mortgage and debenture interest 1,377l., directors' fees 900l., dividend on preference shares at 5½ per cent. 1,376l., dividend on ordinary shares at 10 per cent. 2,500l., debenture redemption fund 120l., buildings depreciation 251l., leaving 120l. to be carried forward. The report points out that the sales have increased by over 30 per cent. and the gross profits by 572l. 9s. 1d. In arriving at the net profits, considerable extra and additional professional, advertising, exhibition, and general expenditure were incurred, principally in creating the increased trade connection, but the whole has been charged against revenue.

**JOHN CLARKE & CO., LTD.**—By order of the Master of the roll a meeting of the creditors of the firm of John Clarke & Co., Ltd., wholesale druggists, Belfast, was held on August 17 at the Chamber of Commerce. There was a large attendance, and the chair was occupied by the liquidator, Mr. Robert Walsh, C.A. Mr. H. H. Mussen, solicitor for

the liquidator, referred to the scheme of arrangement proposed, and announced that the following amended proposal had been received through Messrs. Shean & Dickson, solicitors for Matilda K. Clarke:

"At the meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company held at 12 o'clock on August 17, in pursuance of the order herein, it is proposed to amend the offer made on behalf of Mrs. Matilda K. Clarke and other members of the company as follows: That after payment of the debentures in full the unsecured creditors of the company, other than the shareholder depositors, shall receive a composition of 12s. 6d. in the pound upon the amount of their debts, payable in such instalments as the liquidator may find convenient, having regard to the realisation of the estate, and after the unsecured creditors have received the said composition of 12s. 6d. in the pound the shareholder depositors shall be entitled to rank next for 12s. 6d. in the pound upon the respective amounts due to them, and if any balance remains after payment of the debentures and the above compositions, that the balance (if any) shall be distributed *pro rata* among the unsecured creditors and the shareholder depositors in proportion to the amount of their debts, and that the said liquidator be directed in any event to waive any calls due upon foot of any shares issued."

Mr. Shean supported the amended offer, and recommended it to the sympathetic consideration of the creditors. The Chairman invited questions to be asked, which he said he would be pleased to answer. No questions being asked, Mr. White proposed that the amended offer be accepted. He accepted it on behalf of his own firm and on behalf of several other firms. Mr. D. J. Thompson seconded, and the Chairman asked that the voting-papers which had been distributed should be filled up and returned.

### Charges or Mortgages.

**Under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, Section 93, the mortgages or charges therein specified are (except in Scotland) void against the liquidator and any creditor of the company unless filed with the Registrar in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Act.**

**Full statutory particulars of the following have been filed at Somerset House, London, W.C.**

**Henry Clark & Sons, Ltd.**—Particulars of 3,200l. debentures created May 24, 1911, the amount of the present issue being 2,700l. Property charged: The company's undertaking and property, present and future, including uncalled capital. No trustees.

### Receiverships.

**"Bromar," Ltd.**—A notice of the appointment of J. E. Ward, 44 Bedford Row, London, W.C., as receiver has been filed.

**Lavex, Ltd.**—A notice of the appointment of R. H. Walker, of 63 Coleman Street, E.C., as receiver, on August 11, has been filed.

**Sharon Chemical Co., Ltd.**—E. E. Pool, of 2 Iron Gate, Derby, ceased to act as receiver or manager on August 3.

## GAZETTE.

### The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.

#### RECEIVING ORDER.

**WALKER, WILLIAM FREDERICK**, Mallwyd, Merioneth, physician and surgeon.

**AN AWE-STRIKING PERSONALITY.**—"John Bull" of last week includes in its columns an article by Price Holland on "Types of the Times," the tradesman being under discussion. Of the chemist he writes: Another awe-striking personality is the chemist. He is generally very short-sighted, and reads a prescription as if he were sniffing the note-paper. It is at such a moment that his large, dome-shaped head shows to advantage. Its well-washed baldness catches the sun almost dazzlingly, and even reflects the red and green bottles in the window. You cannot but admire him for the wealth of pharmaceutical lore he has necessarily at his command, and, apart from this, you are always completely wonderstruck at his faculty for solving hieroglyphics and rendering their interpretation in bitter liquid form. He is never a fashionable man, and he is seldom conversational. But you enjoy visiting him, nevertheless, for his shop is clean and aromatic. You even yearn to be a chemist, and to live your life amid a hundred different perfumes. But the yearning is only transient.

## BIRTHS.

**MAWHINNEY.**—At the Medical Hall, Portaferry, on August 17, the wife of A. Mawhinney, Ph.C., of a daughter.

**PURSE.**—At 6 Mount Road, West Sunderland, on August 20, the wife of Alfred H. M. Purse, chemist and druggist, of a son.

## MARRIAGE.

**LAWRENCE—MORRIS.**—At St. Mary's Church, Grassendale, on August 21, by the Rev. T. H. Hyatt, Alexander Lawrence, chemist and druggist, Liverpool, son of the late Mr. Robert Lawrence, solicitor and town clerk, Oban, to Charlotte, daughter of Mr. Joseph Morris, Grassendale.

## DEATHS.

**BANKS.**—Mr. John Banks, of Wick, whose death we recorded last week, was the son of Mr. James Banks, of



MR. JOHN BANKS.

Thurso, and served his apprenticeship in that town. He started the Bridge Street Pharmacy at Wick in 1854. His family, although widely scattered, were, curiously enough, all at home when Mr. Banks died. His son, Mr. George Banks, chemist and druggist, was a manager for Messrs. Lewis & Burrows, Ltd., for some time. Another son is Medical Officer of Health for the Burgh of Wick. The funeral at the new cemetery, on August 15, was largely attended. Other biographical particulars of Mr. Banks were given in our last issue (index folio 316).

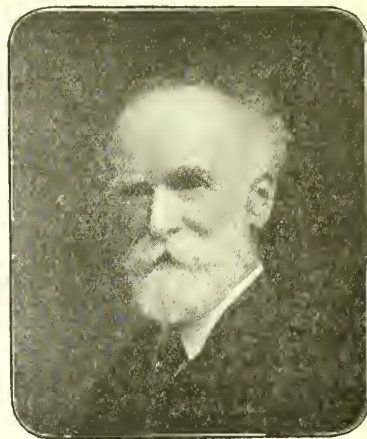
**BATE.**—At 125 South Lambeth Road, London, S.W., on August 17, after long suffering, Mr. Henry Bate, chemist and druggist, aged seventy. Mr. Bate was born at Netherton Hall, Frodsham, Cheshire, and served a five years' apprenticeship at the famous Chester pharmacy of Messrs. Davies and Shephard, his old master, Mr. Shephard, of Bournemouth, being still alive. He gained experience in London with Messrs. Malden & Co., T. Morson & Son (at the same time as Martindale & Meadows), and Messrs. Pope, Roach & Son. In 1865 he began business at 44 Thorne Road, South Lambeth, and moved once, to 182, nearly opposite, before occupying his late premises at 125 South Lambeth Road. He carried on Post-office duties for about thirty years, relinquishing them nearly two years ago, owing to illness. He was the Pharmaceutical Society's local Secretary for Kennington, and acted often as scrutineer at the "Square" many years ago, in the late Mr. Gulliver's time. He was also a member of the Clapham Chess Club, being a tough exponent of the game. Mr. Bate was a keen believer in cremation, and travelled a great deal, both at home and on the Continent. He was married twice, but leaves no children. He was a bright and genial fellow, but the last four years of his life were full of suffering from osteoarthritis, an infirmity he bore with great patience. His nephew, Mr. J. Robinson, pharmacist, is continuing the business.

**DEVOLD.**—At Aalesund, Norway, on August 11, Mr. Peder Devold, the well-known cod-liver-oil manufacturer. Mr. Devold, who died at an advanced age, had been established in business since 1872. He was one of the largest Norwegian producers of cod-liver oil, being the proprietor of several factories and steamers, while his manufactured product is among the premier brands. His son (Mr. Peder Olaus Devold), together with his manager, will continue to carry on the business.

**COOPER.**—At 80 Gloucester Road, South Kensington, London, S.W., on August 19, Mr. Albert Cooper, Ph.C., F.C.S., founder and managing director of Messrs. Cooper, Son & Co., Ltd., wholesale and retail chemists, aged seventy. Mr.

Cooper, who was one of the best known and popular of Metropolitan chemists, died from pleurisy and pneumonia after five days' illness. He was born at Coker, Somerset, and served his apprenticeship to Mr. Maggs, of Yeovil.

On the completion of his indentures he became assist-



MR. ALBERT COOPER, F.C.S.

ant to Messrs. Hooper, Struve & Co., Pall Mall, London, S.W. Subsequently he managed the business of Mr. Wright, High Road, Chiswick, and in 1863, at which time he was twenty-three years old, he commenced business on his own account at 87 Abingdon Road, Kensington, in the pharmacy which now belongs to Mr. R. S. Dampney. In 1873 he removed to the present premises at 80 Gloucester Road, South Kensington, the centre of one of the wealthiest residential quarters of the Metropolis, where he opened a pharmacy which has the reputation of being the most handsomely fitted in London. Here Mr. Cooper built up a business almost entirely dispensing, and as he spared no expense in that department he was able to provide a most perfect service to doctor and patient. He originated a novel dispensing-counter, the main features of which, and the methods employed by him in the dispensing of prescriptions, were described in a specially illustrated article in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* of January 26, 1901. He was the proprietor and inventor of Cooper's Sinapine tissue and several other high-class pharmaceutical preparations, including the "Oxycarbonated" aerated waters, in which oxygen and carbonic-acid gas are used for aerating. It was chiefly his interest in the organisation of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association that brought him prominently to the notice of many retailers. He was heart and soul with the movement from its inception in 1896, and did much work of an unobtrusive character, thereby ably backing up Mr. Glyn-Jones's efforts. During the course of his career he learned much of the particular needs and difficulties of chemists in business up and down the country. He was one of the original committee of the P.A.T.A., and was elected President in 1900, while he was also first Chairman of the Chemists' Defence Association. His ripe experience on pharmaceutical matters found a further outlet when he came forward as a candidate for the Pharmaceutical Council at a time it was felt that an infusion of new blood was needed. This was in 1900, when he was elected, together with Mr. Wootton, there being in that year seventeen candidates for seven vacancies. He was for six years a councillor, retiring in 1906. During this period he took an active share in the administration of the Benevolent Fund as a member of the committee. He was a strong opponent of Clause 2 of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, and supported strongly the endeavour to secure the title chemist for the qualified man. He was associated in his business (which was converted into a limited-liability company in 1907) with his two sons, Mr. A. J. Bullen Cooper, Ph.C., F.C.S., and Mr. H. Creemer Cooper, L.D.S.; he also leaves a married daughter (Mrs. Bliss). The funeral took place at Kensington Cemetery, Hanwell, on August 22, the interment being made in the family grave, where his wife was buried some eight years ago. The Revs. R. S. Mills, M.A., and L. W. Wale, B.A., officiated. The large assembly present included Mr. H. Creemer Cooper, M.R.C.S., L.D.S. (son), Mr. and



Mrs. Cushway Bliss (daughter and son-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Cooper (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs. Bullen and Mrs. Wells (sisters), Mr. R. C. Burton Rowe and Mr. G. H. Cooper (nephews), Mr. Kent, Dr. Paul Jones, Captain Challis, R.A.M.C., Dr. E. J. Parry, Mr. W. Johnston (Secretary Chemists' Defence Association), Mr. R. Brembridge (representing the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society), Mr. J. A. Slater, Mr. M. Bliss, the Rev. A. E. Bouquet, Mr. E. J. Jenkins (director of Messrs. Cooper, Son & Co., Ltd.), and Mr. C. H. Belcher (manager). Mr. A. J. Bullen Cooper (eldest son) was unable to attend the obsequies through illness. Numerous floral tributes were sent.

**GRAYSON.**—At 70 Highgate, Kendal, recently, Mr. Frederick Charles Grayson, dentist, aged sixty-six. Mr. Grayson served his apprenticeship as a chemist at Kendal, and forty years ago succeeded, with his elder brother (Mr. A. E. Grayson), to the dental practice of his father.

**JAMES.**—At Epsom, on August 18, Lord James of Hereford, aged eighty-three. Lord James of Hereford was the son of a Hereford surgeon, and in two of Mr. Gladstone's ministries was Attorney-General. He was raised to the peerage in 1895, and enjoyed the highest reputation in the legal profession. As Sir Henry James he was leading counsel for the defence in the counter-prescribing case of the Society of Apothecaries *v.* Shepperley, which was tried before Baron Pollock in 1878. We reproduce a paragraph from the very long report of the case which we published at that time:

Sir Henry James then opened the case for the defence. Commencing his remarks in a sarcastic vein, he asserted that the only imposition that had been practised had been on the part of those who had instructed his learned friend. These gentlemen were eager to get into their hands the business—for it was no longer a profession if treated in this way—which goes to the chemist and druggist. Were chemists no longer to exercise their discretion? That, he maintained, would be the effect of a verdict for the plaintiffs.

The case ended in a verdict for the defendants.

**LADENBURG.**—At Breslau, on August 15, Geheim-Regierungsrat Dr. Albert Ladenburg, aged sixty-nine. Dr. Ladenburg, who was born at Mannheim in 1842, studied chemistry in Heidelberg, Berlin, Geneva, and Paris, working at different times under Bunsen, Kekulé, and Adolph Wurtz, and was appointed to the post of Professor of Chemistry and Director of Chemical Laboratories in the Kiel University in 1873, being nominated Professor of Chemistry in Breslau in 1889. Dr. Ladenburg is best known for his synthesis of coniine, the first alkaloid to be produced synthetically. Organic synthesis was the field of chemistry to which he has devoted his energies for the last forty years. Among the organic bodies which he first studied and which he succeeded in building up synthetically were anisic acid and tyrosin. He was the author of a number of works on chemical subjects. Among these may be mentioned a "Dictionary of Chemical Terms," in thirteen volumes, a "Theory of Aromatic Compounds," and a valuable work on "Spectral Analysis," besides numerous papers on the history of chemistry and popular publications dealing with natural sciences. Dr. Ladenburg was elected an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in 1887, at which time we published his portrait in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, and he received the Haubury medal two years later.

**ROBINSON.**—On August 9, Mr. Christopher William Robinson, 105 Gerrard Street, Aston, Birmingham, aged fifty-five.

**WALKER.**—On August 11, Mr. Samuel Charles Walker, chemist and druggist, Anchor Hill, Wivenhoe, Essex, aged sixty-three.

**WILSON.**—On August 19, suddenly, Mr. T. Wilson, of Wilson's Drug-stores, Dalkeith Place, Kettering, aged sixty-six. Mr. Wilson had resided in the town for forty years, and prior to going into business for himself was assistant to Thursfield & Sons, chemists, of Rockingham Road, Kettering. The funeral took place on August 22.

**WRIGHT.**—At his residence, 139 Chatham Street, Liverpool, on August 15, Mr. William Wright, Ph.C., aged eighty-seven. Mr. Wright, who was descended from a long line of Leicestershire farmers, served his apprentice-

ship with Mr. Hedderley, Nottingham, and was afterwards for several years assistant to Messrs. Huxtable Bros., London. In 1850 he succeeded to the business until then carried on by Mr. Rawle at 21 Myrtle Street, Liverpool, whence he removed in 1885 to new premises at 203 Edge Lane, finally retiring from business in 1900. He had for years past been much disabled by rheumatism and defective sight. His death, which was unexpected but painless, took place in the presence of two of his three surviving daughters. Mr. Wright was a typical specimen of the old-fashioned chemist before the era of examinations, thoroughly efficient in all the practical work of the shop, and with a sound basis of knowledge gained by experience in every department of the trade. A member of the Pharmaceutical Society almost from its commencement, he was also for many years actively connected with the Liverpool Chemists' Association. He was one of those upon whom the troubles of life weigh but lightly; in business upright and honourable, in all his private relations amiable and affectionate, he had many friends.

## POISONING FATALITIES.

NINE is the sum total of the deaths reported from poisoning since our issue of last week. Of these only one was a misadventure.

**Ammonia.**—At Moorthorpe, Yorks, a Coroner's jury found that Mary E. Brady (29), who died from ammonia-poisoning, committed suicide while of unsound mind. At the inquest Mr. Fred Richardson, assistant to Mr. George Hodgson, chemist and druggist, Hemsworth, said he did not recognise the bottle, and did not remember supplying the ammonia to the deceased or anyone in the house. Ammonia was not scheduled as a poison, and although not bound by law to do so, it was labelled "Poison" for safety's sake.

**Carbolic Acid** was used to ensure self-destruction by Gertrude Sarah Curtis, lodging-house keeper, Cambridge, and also by Wm. Evan Thomas (29), ship's steward, at Eccles.

**Laudanum** was the suicidal agent used by a Bow widow named Emma Ada Rowden. Deceased had tried to poison herself with the same poison some time previously.

**Oxalic Acid.**—The self-inflicted death of Agnes Langford (34), dressmaker, East Ham, was due to taking oxalic acid.

**Prussic Acid.**—At Rostrevor, co. Down, Wm. J. Watson, C.E., J.P., committed suicide by drinking prussic acid. Deceased had suffered from cancer in the throat. Mr. J. E. Connor, J.P., Ph.C., Newry, gave evidence at the inquest as to deceased buying prussic acid from him on August 12, stating that he wanted it to poison dogs. The books showed that deceased had purchased prussic acid in May 1910 also, and strychnine in March 1911. A verdict of suicide during temporary insanity was returned.

**Spirit of Salt.**—Robert Howden (67), decorator, Stockwell, poisoned himself on Clapham Common with this acid.

**Veronal and Trional.**—At a Wimbledon inquest, Dr. J. Harvey deposed that the death of Ernest Bewsey (40), a local master-builder, was due to syncope brought on by an overdose of veronal and trional. In reply to the Coroner, Dr. H. M. Taylor said the two drugs were comparatively new remedies for sleeplessness. Even the medical profession did not know much about them, and there was no known antidote for them. The Coroner said he would like to hear Dr. Harvey's views about the easy way in which these particular drugs are got. "You can buy them as easily as a pound of soap."—Witness: "I don't think it is at all right. There should be a law to prohibit the sale of these drugs."—The Coroner: "There is no restriction on their sale. Anybody can go in and buy a bottle of these tablets, and a chemist is not breaking the law." The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

**Kind not Stated.**—At Shore-ditch Coroner's Court, Dr. Wynn Westcott inquired into the death of Louisa Llandreiff, mantle saleswoman. Deceased's landlady stated that Llandreiff had told her "she had taken enough medicine to sink a ship," adding that she had paid 11s. 6d. for one bottle of medicine. Witness did not know where the medicine was obtained. The jury returned a verdict that death was due to blood-poisoning, following the self-administered medicine.

**BUSINESS KNOWLEDGE** is essential to everyone connected with the retail drug-trade. It helps to turn examination knowledge into money. A great aid to getting business knowledge is our book entitled "Opening a Pharmacy," published at 2s. 6d. (by post from 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., 2s. 9d.). It may be obtained from most wholesale houses at the published price.

## **Ships' Medical Scales Revision.**

[illegible]

By a M.R.C.V.S.

A SHEEP-BREEDER writing to "The Times" states that the source of the parasitic worms in lambs and cattle is often the drinking-ponds, and he recommends dressing the edges with lime and adding lime to the water. Tobacco ( $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. made into a ball with oil or butter) given fasting has been found to cure lambs affected with worms. The ball is given for three doses at intervals of three or four days. A dose of aperient is administered at the end of the treatment. The same writer states that tobacco is an excellent remedy for husk, as also is a mixture of turpentine and linseed oil.

A GOOD AND CHEAP REMEDY for worms, and one that can be recommended, consists of the following :

Slaked lime	...	...	...	1 lb.
Common salt	...	...	...	5 oz.
Water	...	...	...	1 gal.

Mix as in making lime-water, and of the clear liquid place 2 oz. in half a pailful of the animal's drinking-water night and morning. Or 4 oz. with water can be made into a mash and given for a week. This remedy is much used in America, and the writer has found very satisfactory results from it in numerous cases.

HORSES of all ages are liable to be troubled once in a while with this disease. It is simply inflammation of the gums; the gums become affected in a similar manner to those of an infant in the process of teething. The horse is unfortunately often compelled to suffer more from the hands of man through cruel or even barbarous treatment than from the disease itself. All that is required is a dose of laxative medicine and alteratives. Rub over the swollen parts briskly for a few minutes a little common salt, to be followed with a lotion of tr. myrrh, ʒss., aqua ʒiij., applied to the affected parts with a sponge. Two applications are usually sufficient.

4. We have learnt, in the course of our inquiries, that medicines are frequently obtainable on board liners from unauthorised sources. The indiscriminate vending to passengers and crew of patent medicines, purgatives, specifics for sea-sickness, and nostrums advertised to cure liver and nervous complaints, and the like, constitutes a source of danger. We would recommend that shipowners should be warned of this practice, and advised to take measures to prevent the irregular sale of all articles of this description by any member of the ship's company, and to ensure that all hospitals with their appliances, drugs, and other medical equipment should be under the exclusive charge of the ship's medical officer.

5. We have carefully considered representations which have been made to us as to the measures which ought to be taken to ensure the purity of the drugs supplied under the various scales. The necessity for the maintenance of a high standard is indicated by the statement in each scale that the drugs are to be prepared according to the British Pharmacopœia. We are of opinion that this point might be further safeguarded, and recommend that the penal clause (Sub-section 7 of Section 200) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, against the manufacture, keeping, or sale for use on board ship of drugs of bad quality should be printed on each scale.

6. Our attention has been called to the absence on board cargo vessels of any separate accommodation for members of the crew who fall ill or meet with accidents. We are of opinion that it would be very desirable that some suitable provision should be made on board all ocean-going cargo vessels for the separate and reserved accommodation of sick persons, and trust the Board will see fit to use its influence with shipowners in this direction.

7. In view of the large number of persons carried on board modern emigrant ships, and the consequent heavy duties devolving upon the medical officer in charge, we would recommend to the Board that shipowners should be approached with the view of a second medical officer being carried in the case of emigrant ships where the number of persons on board exceeds 1,500. The professional care of such large numbers would be further facilitated by the employment of a qualified dispenser.

The committee express their appreciation of the services of Mr. Fahy, the Secretary.



## MEDICAL SCALE FOR MERCHANT SHIPS.

Names of Medicines, Medicaments, &c. Preparations from British Pharmacopœia, 1893. All bottles to be stoppered, labelled, and the official dose for an adult to be stated on the label. All medicines indicated thus (*) to be marked with a Red Poison-label. All articles marked with two asterisks should, in addition to the Red Poison label, be carried in green fluted bottles and labelled "For external use only." All articles marked with one (*) or two (**) asterisks should be stored separately from other articles in the Scale	Proportion for Ships carrying the undermentioned number of Men and Boys (for twelve months)			
	10 and under	11 to 20 inclusive	21 to 40 inclusive	41 and upwards
Alum ... ..	2 oz.	2 oz.	6 oz.	8 oz.
Aromatic spirit of ammonia ... ..	4 "	6 "	12 "	16 "
Balsam of opoiba ... ..	4 "	8 "	12 "	16 "
Bicarbonate of potash ... ..	4 "	6 "	8 "	8 "
Bicarbonate of soda ... ..	8 "	12 "	16 "	24 "
Black draught (mist. sennæ co.) ... ..	2 pts.	4 pts.	8 pts.	10 pts.
Black wash ... ..	1 pint	2 "	2 "	2 "
**Blistering fluid (liq. epispasticus) ... ..	1 oz.	1 oz.	1 oz.	1 oz.
Boric acid ... ..	8 "	8 "	12 "	16 "
Bromide of potassium ... ..	2 "	4 "	6 "	8 "
*Calomel ... ..	1 "	1 "	1 "	1 "
Camphor ... ..	2 "	4 "	6 "	8 "
*Carbolic acid, liquefied (acid. carb. bot. liq.) ... ..	4 "	6 "	12 "	16 "
†Carbolic acid or other disinfectant of approved quality ... ..	1 gal.	2 gals.	4 gals.	4 gals.
Carron oil ... ..	1 pint	1 pint	2 p.s.	2 pts.
Castor oil ... ..	2 lb.	4 lb.	6 lb.	8 lb.
*Caustic (argent. nit. ind.) ... ..	½ oz.	½ oz.	1 oz.	1 oz.
*Compound tincture of chloroform and morphine (to be used in place of chlorodyne) ... ..	1 "	2 "	3 "	4 "
Creosote ... ..	½ "	1 "	1 "	1 "
**Crimson fluid (liq. potass. permang.) ... ..	½ pint	1 pint	1 pint	2 pts.
Elixir of vitriol (acid. sulph. arom.) ... ..	2 oz.	4 oz.	6 oz.	8 oz.
Epsom salts ... ..	3 lb.	6 lb.	10 lb.	12 lb.
Essence of ginger (tr. zingib. fort., B.P. 1885) ... ..	1 oz.	2 oz.	3 oz.	4 oz.
Essence of peppermint (ess. menth. pip., B.P. 1885) ... ..	1 "	2 "	3 "	4 "
Friar's balsam (tr. benzoïn. comp.) ... ..	4 "	6 "	8 "	10 "
Glycerin ... ..	4 "	4 "	6 "	8 "
**Goulard's extract (liq. plumbi subacet. fort.) ... ..	1 "	2 "	4 "	8 "
Iodide of potassium ... ..	2 "	2 "	3 "	4 "
**Iodine, strong solution of (liq. iodi fortis) ... ..	1 "	2 "	2 "	2 "
*Iodoform ... ..	6 dr.	8 dr.	10 dr.	12 dr.
Ipecacuanha powder (in tin) ... ..	1 oz.	1 oz.	2 oz.	2 oz.
†Laudanum ... ..	4 "	6 "	8 "	10 "
§Linsced meal ... ..	5 lb.	10 lb.	15 lb.	20 lb.
Mustard-leaves (charta sinapis), in tins ... ..	12	24	24	24
Nitrate of potash ... ..	4 oz.	6 oz.	8 oz.	8 oz.
Olive oil ... ..	4 "	8 "	16 "	24 "
*Opodeldoe (lin. opii) ... ..	6 "	8 "	10 "	12 "
*Paregoric (tinct. camph. comp.) ... ..	4 "	6 "	8 "	12 "
Pills, blue (pil. hydrarg., 4 gr.) ... ..	4 doz.	6 doz.	8 doz.	10 doz.
Pills, cough (pil. tpecac. c. scilla, 4 gr.) ... ..	4 "	4 "	6 "	6 "
*Pills, opium (pil. sapon. comp., 2 gr.) ... ..	2 "	2 "	3 "	4 "
*Pills, lead and opium (pil. plumbi e. opio, 4 gr.) ... ..	1 "	2 "	3 "	4 "
Pills, purging (pil. coloc. comp. 4 gr.) (All pills to be coated with gelatin) ... ..	6 "	12 "	16 "	24 "
*Powder, Dover's (pulv. tpecac. comp., 5-gr. tablets) ... ..	2 oz.	4 oz.	6 oz.	8 oz.
Quinine ... ..	1 "	2 "	3 "	4 "
Salicylate of soda ... ..	4 "	6 "	8 "	12 "
Spirit of chloroform ... ..	4 "	6 "	8 "	12 "
Sulphate of zinc ... ..	1 "	1 "	2 "	2 "
Sulphur (sublimed) ... ..	1 lb.	1 lb.	2 lb.	4 lb.
Sweet spirit of nitre ... ..	6 oz.	6 oz.	8 oz.	12 oz.
Tartaric acid ... ..	4 "	6 "	8 "	12 "
Tinct. of calumba ... ..	4 "	6 "	6 "	8 "
Tinct. of steel (tr. ferri. perchlor.) ... ..	4 "	4 "	6 "	8 "
Turpentine liniment ... ..	8 "	12 "	16 "	24 "
Witch-hazel (ex. hamamel. liq.) ... ..	1 "	1 "	2 "	2 "
Ointment, boric acid ... ..	4 "	6 "	8 "	10 "
Ointment, calomel ... ..	4 "	8 "	12 "	16 "
Ointment of gall and opium ... ..	1 "	2 "	3 "	4 "
Ointment, mercurial ... ..	2 "	3 "	4 "	8 "
Ointment, sulphur ... ..	8 "	12 "	16 "	16 "
Ointment, white precipitate ... ..	2 "	2 "	4 "	4 "
Ointment, vaseline, or soft paraffin (paraffinum molle) ... ..	12 "	12 "	16 "	24 "

For voyages of six months and under half the quantity of the above medicines may be carried. There is a separate scale for voyages of less than five days from port to port.

† A liquid containing not less than 80 per cent. of free carbolic or cresylic acid, antiseptic and deodorising agents for common use. Samples of the disinfectants supplied will be occasionally taken for analysis, to determine whether they fulfil the requirements of the Board of Trade.

§ For purifying drinking-water when necessary. ¶ In hermetically sealed 5-lb. tins. Add 2 dr. of powdered camphor to each pound. ¶ Treble the quantity above indicated to be taken to all tropical ports.

## SCALES OF MEDICAL STORES AND NECESSARIES.

Appliances, etc.	Proportion for Ships carrying the undermentioned number of Men and Boys (for twelve months)			
	10 and under	11 to 20 inclusive	21 to 40 inclusive	41 and upwards
Scales and weights ... ..	1 set	1 set	1 set	1 set
Self-adhesive plaster, 1 in. wide, on reels, 5 yds. long ... ..	1 reel	1 reel	2 reels	2 reels
Self-adhesive plaster, 2 in. wide, on reels, 5 yds. long ... ..	1 "	1 "	1 reel	1 reel
Lint ... ..	1 lb.	1 lb.	2 lbs.	2 lbs.
Boric lint ... ..	1 "	1 "	2 "	2 "
Absorbent cotton-wool ... ..	1 "	1 "	1 lb.	1 lb.
Double cyanide gauze ... ..	1 yd.	1 yd.	2 yds.	2 yds.
Waterproof cambric ... ..	1 sq. yd.	1 sq. yd.	1½ sq. yd.	2 sq. yd.
† 2-gal. Pasteur-Chamberland filter, or other approved filter of like capacity capable of delivering water free from micro-organisms ... ..	1	1	1	1
Graduated 2 drachm drop-measure (conical) ... ..	1	2	2	2
† Graduated 2-oz. measure (conical) ... ..	1	2	2	2
6 oz. bottles ... ..	1 doz.	1 doz.	2 doz.	2 doz.
2 oz. fluted blue poison-bottles ... ..	½ "	½ "	1 "	1 "
Corks to fit bottles ... ..	3 "	3 "	4 "	5 "
Plain labels, packets of 100 ... ..	1 pkt.	2 pkts.	2 pkts.	2 pkts.
Poison-labels, packets of 100 ... ..	1 "	2 "	2 "	2 "
Chip ointment-boxes, nested ... ..	1 doz.	1 doz.	1½ doz.	2 doz.
Scissors ... ..	1 pair	1 pair	1 pair	1 pair
Spatula or palette knife ... ..	1	1	1	1
Scalpel ... ..	1	1	1	1
Abscess-knife, Paget's ... ..	1	1	1	1
Eye-spid ... ..	1	1	1	1
Glass syringes, ½ oz., with rubber plungers, in paper cases ... ..	2	4	6	8
Glass and vulcanite glycerin syringe (2 drachms) ... ..	1	1	1	1
Bandages, 6 yds. long, 3 in. wide ... ..	1 doz.	1 doz.	2 doz.	2 doz.
Triangular bandages, base 48 in., sides 33 in. each ... ..	2	3	4	4
Flannel bandages, 7 yds. long, 6 in. wide ... ..	1	2	3	4
Finger-bandages, 1 in. wide ... ..	1 doz.	1 doz.	1 doz.	1 doz.
Calico ... ..	2 yds.	3 yds.	4 yds.	6 yds.
Flannel ... ..	2 "	3 "	4 "	6 "
Needles, assort 1, in vaseline ... ..	6 "	6 "	6 "	6 "
Tablet of silk, with four sizes ... ..	1	1	1	1
Safety-pins ... ..	3 doz.	3 doz.	3 doz.	3 doz.
Splints, common ... ..	1 set	1 set	1 set	1 set
Red-rubber stomach-tube with funnel ... ..	1	1	1	1
Enema-syringe (Higginson's), printed directions for use ... ..	1	1	2	2
Esmarch's tourniquet (plain, with hooks) ... ..	1 pair	1 pair	1 pair	1 pair
Dressing or dissecting forceps ... ..	1 "	1 "	1 "	1 "
Spencer Wells' artery-forceps ... ..	1 "	1 "	1 "	1 "
Soft olivary catheters ... ..	3	3	3	3
Trusses, 36-in. single reversible ... ..	1	2	3	3
Trusses, 36-in. double ... ..	1	1	1	1
Plaster-of-Paris bandages (in tins) prepared for use ... ..	½ doz.	½ doz.	½ doz.	1 doz.
Clinical thermometers, self-registering ... ..	2	2	2	2
Camel's-hair pencil-brushes with wooden handles ... ..	1	2	3	4
Throat-brushes ... ..	2	2	2	2
Dispensary-paper, white demy ... ..	½ qr.	½ qr.	½ qr.	½ qr.
Eye-shades, cardboard ... ..	1	1	2	2
Iron enamelled bed-pan ... ..	1	1	2	2
Iron enamelled basin, with words "Medicine Chest" painted thereon ... ..	1	1	1	1
Authorised Book of Directions for Medicine-chests ("The Ship Captain's Medical Guide," latest edition) ... ..	1	1	1	1
Oatmeal ... ..	4 lb.	8 lb.	16 lb.	24 lb.
Arrowroot ... ..	2 "	4 "	8 "	12 "
Pearl barley ... ..	4 "	8 "	16 "	24 "
Cornflour ... ..	4 "	8 "	16 "	24 "
Sago or cerealine ... ..	4 "	8 "	16 "	24 "
Sugar ... ..	14 "	23 "	42 "	56 "
Condensed milk of approved quality (in 1-lb. tins) ... ..	12 "	12 "	18 "	24 "
Preserved Soup and bouilli ... ..	6 "	12 "	24 "	36 "
Boiled mutton ... ..	6 "	12 "	24 "	36 "
Essence of meat (½ pint) ... ..	6 tins	12 tins	24 tins	36 tins
Desiccated soup ... ..	4 lb.	8 lb.	16 lb.	24 lb.
Vegetables, dried or compressed (Potato) ... ..	4 "	8 "	16 "	24 "
Wine (port) ... ..	3 botts.	6 botts.	12 botts.	18 botts.
Brandy ... ..	2 "	4 "	6 "	8 "

\* 1 grain, 2 grains, etc., must be stamped in English figures and words on each respective weight, the word *scruple* must not be used at all (the scruple weight being marked 20 grains), the ½ drachm, 1 drachm, and 2 drachm weights must be also marked in English figures and words. † The Surveyors will require all filters to be tested at the Government Laboratory. ‡ The fluid 2-oz. measure must be marked in ounces and drachms, tablespoonfuls and teaspoonfuls.

## MEDICAL SCALES FOR SHORT VOYAGES.

The following is the emergency scale of medicines and medical stores for use of ships sailing from the United Kingdom, and making voyages not exceeding five days from port to port.

The proportion given is for ships irrespective of the number of men carried (for voyages of five days and under from port to port). The double asterisks indicate poison-labels, as in larger medical scale; the preparations are also those of the British Pharmacopœia, 1898.

Aromatic spirits of ammonia, 2 oz.; "compound tincture of chloroform and morphine (to be used in lieu of chlorodyne), 1 oz.; carron oil, 1 pint; castor oil,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint; "carbolic acid, liquefied, 2 oz.; Friar's balsam, 2 oz.; "Goulard's extract, 2 oz.; "laudanum, 2 oz.; opodeldoc, 4 oz.; purgative pills, *pillula colocynthis composita* (4 gr.), 3 doz.; vaseline or soft paraffin, 4 oz.; self-adhesive plaster, *on reel*, 5 yards long and 2 in. wide, 1 reel; lint,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; boric lint,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; absorbent cotton-wool,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; graduated 2-drachm drop measure (conical), 1; graduated 2-oz. measure (conical), marked in ounces and drachms, *tablespoonfuls and teaspoonfuls*, 1; 6-oz. bottles with corks, 6; 1-oz. bottles with corks, 6; mustard-leaves in tin, 1 doz.; scissors, 1 pair; lancet, 1; clinical thermometer, self-registering, 1; triangular bandages, *base 48 in., sides 32 in.*, 2; bandages, *leg and arm size*, 12; finger bandages, 6; calico, 2 yards; splints, common, 1 set; Esmarch's tourniquet, 1; needles in vaseline, 6; safety-pins, 2 doz.; tablet of silk with four sizes, 1; enema syringe (Higginson's, with printed directions for use), 1; truss, *36 in., single reversible*, 1; truss, *36 in., double*, 1; authorised Book of Directions for Medicine Chest (The "Ship Captain's Medical Guide," latest edition), 1.

Ships making voyages of less than twenty-four hours from port to port have the option of carrying only the small ambulance hamper of the St. John Ambulance Association, or its equivalent, in lieu of the above scale.

Separate scales are given for North Atlantic emigrant ships and for emigrant ships other than those in North Atlantic trade.

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

Temperatures under this heading are on the Centigrade scale.

**Helgotan**, bromo-tannin methyleneamido-bromide, is recommended as a dusting-powder of high antiseptic value.

**Erseol** is quinoline sulpho-salicylate, which forms well-defined white prisms with an acid reaction, and is easily soluble in warm water. It is recommended as a remedy for rheumatism and similar troubles.

**Saponification of Oils.**—Winkler ("Zeit. angew. Chemie," 1911, 636) recommends propyl alcohol as a substitute for ethyl alcohol in the determination of the saponification-values of fats and oils. The higher boiling-point of propyl alcohol enables a consequent reduction in the time required for saponification; thus beeswax, which is very difficult to saponify completely, can be saponified in ten minutes without using a reflux condenser. A number of figures are given to show that all ordinary oils can be saponified with equal rapidity without the use of condensing-apparatus.

**Otto of Rose.**—The examination of a few samples of new-crop Bulgarian otto of rose of undoubted purity has given the following characters:

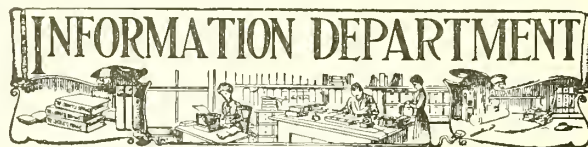
Specific gravity at 20°	0.855 to 0.858
Optical rotation	—3° to —3° 45'
Refractive index at 20°	1.4520 to 1.4540
Melting-point	21° to 22.5°
Ethyl alcohol	Absent.
Total alcohols, as geraniol	74 to 77 per cent.

According to reports from confidential quarters, there are several new adulterants being used this year, the nature of which is at present quite unknown.

**"A New Alkaloid."**—In this column last week (index folio 318) it is stated that Lenz had extracted from the root of *Derris elliptica* "a crystalline alkaloid named derrin," which "appears to be a lactone." A correspondent points out that the latter statement is quite correctly rendered, but the substance could not very well be both a lactone and an alkaloid, and with regard to the latter Lenz particularly stated ("Archiv," p. 302) that "according to the method of Stas-Otto, no alkaloid could be detected, either in an acid extract of the root or in one which had been made alkaline." No analysis of the substance is given, and it was stated (*loc. cit.*, p. 304) that the amount was not sufficient for a chemical examination, but whatever it may have been it was evidently not an alkaloid.

**Oil of Hops.**—Deussen recently showed that humulene, the sesquiterpene of oil of hops isolated by A. C. Chapman,

was identical with the inactive caryophyllene of oil of cloves. Attention had been drawn by several writers to the great similarity in the properties of the two bodies, but a difference of 12° in the melting-points of their nitrosates appeared to warrant the conclusion that they were different bodies. Probably this difference is to be explained by the presence of traces of impurities in one or other of the specimens examined. Semmler and Mayer ("Berichte," 1911, 2009) have now shown that Chapman's olefinic terpene which he discovered in this oil is identical with myrcene, the olefinic terpene of oil of bay. By reduction with sodium and ethyl alcohol it yields dihydromyrcene,  $C_{10}H_{18}$ , and on hydration, myrcenol,  $C_{10}H_{18}O$ , in both cases identical with the corresponding bodies from myrcene from oil of bay. These facts considerably simplify the chemistry of oil of hops.



Postal Address:

C. & D. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "CHEMICS LONDON."

Telephone No.: BANK 852 (two lines).

## INFORMATION WANTED.

We would be obliged if any reader would inform us by post-card or telephone who are the makers or agents of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries received since our last issue:

- 135/33. "Parmoline" soap.
- 136/5. "Laxans": makers.
- 139/29. "Minerolin": makers.
- 136/7. Oleic-acid capsules in phials.
- 134/41. "Lion" brand fine chemicals.
- 138/55. "Bio-Plastina" (Wasserman).
- 137/67. Sunflower-seed oil: source of supply.
- 136/69. *ld.* disinfectants called "Ozone" for suspending.
- 135/28. "Vulcoline," made by Dr. Carl Otto Webber's method.
- 135/280. A carbon bisulphide substitute, manufactured in England.
- 136/49. Norton, Watney & Co., makers of Bright's Phosphoryne: present address.
- 135/6. A sea-water soap supposed to be of Japanese manufacture. It is in square tablets, of a pink colour, and light in weight like burnt alum.

## INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to where the following articles can be obtained, and in many cases we have given the actual makers. The information will be repeated to any other inquirers who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- Amylum (fine), makers (136/39).
- Arheel capsules, makers and agents (134/18).
- Aspirin, makers (136/39).
- Balmain's luminous paint, maker (138/43).
- "Borama," makers (133/65).
- Bromlecinthin, makers (136/54).
- Carbolic-acid disinfectant, makers (136/39).
- Compressed-tablet machinery makers (135/38).
- "Frena" cameras and films, makers (137/50).
- Glass feeding-cups, makers (134/39).
- Grease-proof paper, makers (133/20).
- Guttapercha tissue, manufacturers (137/74).
- Hall's Delitol olive-oil soap, maker (128/42).
- Hycol disinfectant, makers (138/37).
- Hydrochloric acid, commercial, makers (136/29).
- Johnson's corn-silk, makers and agents (137/74).
- Kaffee H.A.G. (caffeineless coffee), agents (133/68).
- Laced showcards, makers (135/4).
- Neuronidia, makers and agents (136/65).
- Opal glass pots, German makers (130/73).
- "Phagocytin," maker (138/55).
- "Phlox Eonia" perfume, makers (139/1).
- Pot. permanganate, maker (136/39).
- "Sargol," makers (134/18).
- Surgery round bottles, makers (134/39).
- "Thistle" brand caustic soda, makers (137/53).
- Triton bath-salt, makers and agents (133/72, 136/5).
- Tuberal, makers and agents (136/66).
- X.M.A. ointment for eczema, makers (130/4).



# OBSERVATIONS & REFLECTIONS.

By Xrayser II.

## The Cause of the Strikes

which have recently become so general is attributed by "The Lancet" to the prolonged abnormal heat. This reminds me of the travelling showman in Dickens, who protested that his caravan was to blame for his having beaten his wife. "There seems," he said, "something in the very natur' of a caravan as brings us to a fight." The weather has certainly been trying, and heat stands figuratively for anger, but the real cause of the strikes is not a meteorologic but an economic one. For at least ten years the purchasing power of wages has been decreasing, while at the same time the general standard of living has been rising, and the labouring classes are therefore relatively much worse off than they were in 1900. Other factors must be taken into account, and there have been faults on both sides; but this fact alone is sufficient to account for, and even to justify, much of the unrest and discontent in which the strikes originated. Much as we are all suffering from their effects—and we tradesmen suffer more than others—yet all who live by trade must desire to see wages rise, and no sane-thinking person will blame the labourer for trying by all legitimate means to improve his lot. It should be remembered that, after all, the striker himself sacrifices more than he causes others to lose, and men who earn their living by hard manual labour are no more fools than the rest of us. It is fair to credit them with some better reason than mere "cussedness" for striking; this is indeed their only effective weapon against the economic tyranny of the times. Is it too much to hope that the ultimate result may be a complete reorganisation of our antiquated railway system, or even of labour in general?

## The Elaborate Investigation

undertaken by Mr. Barnard and reported in your last issue is interesting in so far that it confirms what is common knowledge, but it tells us nothing new. I think Mr. Barnard would have employed his time to better advantage if he had reproduced the conditions as they exist in the pharmacy—namely, full bottles begin with and the daily removal of an ounce or two of their contents till the bulk of the liquid has been used up. Tests made week by week of this material would show exactly what takes place in the average pharmacy, and the results would have been of more value, and would have enabled pharmacists to take precautions which they may not take at present. We may, however, learn something from Mr. Barnard's figures, and one thing unquestionably seems to be that the large shop-round stands condemned. I am not quite sure whether the fashion has not been changing of recent years, but anyhow it is quite time it were changed. A generation ago 40 oz. shop-rounds were considered the proper thing for all the common tinctures, and it is undoubted that in pharmacies where there is not a rapid turnover of such stock this size of bottle is a mistake. No doubt it had its advantages, or what seemed to be advantages, in the eyes of the chemist, for he could tell at a glance exactly how his stock stood and just when it would be necessary to "put on" another quart of tincture. But this sort of thing does not appeal to many of us to-day, for we either purchase our tinctures ready made, or dilute them down a few ounces at a time from concentrated liquors or some such short cuts to economy.

## The Neglect of the Lozenge

as a form of medicine was even more marked in the first half of the nineteenth century

than in the eighteenth. I had a brief note on the early history of the lozenge some weeks ago, and perhaps a few further particulars may be welcomed now in view of Sir James Sawyer's introduction of a new series. In Culpeper's "Dispensatory" there are forty-six formulæ for lozenges, thirty-two of which are still official. Many of these were very old and did not differ materially in character from those which had been omitted from the P.L. of 1650. The Pharmacopœia of 1721 retained twenty-two of these old forms, and added another for Trochisci de Terra Japonica; the P.E. of 1735 had but eleven; the P.L. of 1746 had nine, including Saccharum Rosaceum. In 1788 the number was still further reduced to six, which perhaps deserve to be named as the last official survivors of their class in England; they were the lozenges of chalk, liquorice, magnesia, nitre, starch, and sulphur. But a still further slaughter of these innocents was to follow; in the P.L. of 1851 there was not a single lozenge, although Magendie and others had meanwhile introduced several new ones, some of which obtained such notoriety as to be included in Rennie's "Conspectus" of 1837. Indeed, the Paris Codex retained a good many pastilli and tabellæ long after such preparations had become discredited here. Not all these old lozenges were for internal use; some—such as Trochisci albi Rhasi—were used only in solution, as cooling lotions, or for other purposes; many of the more ancient ones, too, though taken internally, were virtually used only in the composition of theriacæ and such-like preparations. It was against these that Zwelfer and other critics protested, and they were among the first to be given up.

## "Sound Business,"

just published by Messrs. Cassell & Co., is a book that may be recommended to the pharmacist among other tradesmen; for though it has no special reference to chemists, the principles of one branch of trade are pretty much like those of every other. The author, Mr. E. Bull, writes as a man of varied experience, and it is rarely that one feels disposed to question his dicta on any important point. Whether he speaks of the pitfalls of business or the essentials of success, of servant or employer, company or private trader, buying or selling, book-keeping or advertising (and these are only a few of his topics), he shows not only invariable good sense but a real acquaintance with the matter in hand; and he is equally at home in wholesale and retail trade. It is refreshing to find Mr. Bull a believer in the survival and ultimate triumph of the "individual trader," at least in such businesses as demand skill and taste; the personal element is indeed (as he says) always a factor of the first importance. He points out very clearly the limits of "multiple shopkeeping"—that in most trades a time must inevitably come when a further extension is impracticable. Under the heading "The Topical Spirit" he draws an illuminating comparison between the editor of a successful newspaper and the ordinary tradesman. If the same intelligence, alertness, "vim," by which the former virtually compels us to read his paper were spent upon the conduct of a grocery store, how it would boom! "An editor with a shop-window in High Street unnoticed by passers-by? Perish the thought!" I am glad to find him in accord with what was recently said in these columns on the subject of advertising; it is the short, pithy sentence, the phrase that sticks, which does the business; repeated until it becomes almost a condition of thought it is practically irresistible. He has some excellent remarks on unprofitable advertising, and upon the application of much-vaunted American methods of "pushing" business to our own country. Real business is not (he well says) "the sublimated art of selling to people what they don't want."

# "SANITAS POWDER" v. SLUGS.

"SANITAS POWDER" rid's Garden Beds of Slugs, and is now being well advertised for that purpose.

Mr. W. P. Wright in "The Garden, Week by Week" says, "The hint I was going to offer about slugs was to scatter 'Sanitas Powder' on the soil amongst the plants. Slugs simply loathe it."

Special Show Cards and Handbills will be sent on application.

The "SANITAS COMPANY" Ltd.  
Locksley Street, Limehouse, LONDON, E.

## JEWSBURY & BROWN'S CITODA

The Special SODA WATER  
for Milk Diet  
and all Medical Purposes.

Send for Particulars to ARDWICK GREEN, MANCHESTER.

**E**VEN very cheap printing can be good. ☞ Good in design and distinctiveness. ☞ Good in colour. ☞ THE ARDEN PRESS, LETCHWORTH, specializes in producing printing for all purposes with just that note of character which makes all the difference. Send for samples THE ARDEN PRESS LETCHWORTH HERTS

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TERPENELESS, CONCENTRATED  
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Unequalled Speciality.

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LAMBETH,  
S.E.  
**SVR**  
AND METHYLATED SPIRIT  
at lowest prices.  
Write for Quotations.

### G. S. MUMFORD & SONS, FARRINGTON RD. LONDON, E.C.

Finest ARROWROOT	1/ lb.	No. 1 Finest Pure FULLER'S EARTH (Light Colour)	15/ cwt.
BICARB. SODA	15/ cwt.	Best Cleaned LINSEED (TEA)	21/ cwt.
BORACIC ACID POWDER, Finest	40/ cwt.	Finest Pure LIQUORICE JUICE	10 lb.
No. 1 Finest Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	29/ cwt.	Finest Compound LIQUORICE POWDER	8 & 1/ lb.
No. 2 Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	28/ cwt.	PUMICE POWDER	35/ cwt.
Best Cleaned LINSEED	28/ cwt.	Extra Finest Levigated No. 1 Finest Light Pure PRECIP. CHALK	25/ cwt.
EPSOM SALTS, E.S.S. Purified, Clean, and Dry	11/6 cwt.	Finest Pure STARCH POWDER	22/ cwt.
Ditto, Medium Crystals	12/6 ..	Finest Pure TOILET OATMEAL, SPECIAL	32/ cwt.
FLOWERS OF SULPHUR, Finest English	13/6 ..	Finest Levigated "WHITE EARTH" (Toilet purposes)	18/ cwt.
Ditto, Foreign	9/6 ..		
FULLER'S EARTH (In Breders)	1/ 2 & 6 5 6 11/ 22		

Carriage Paid to railway stations within 200 miles of London (or allowance made for distances beyond). Terms, less 2 1/2 per cent. Cash or 1 month net.

**FLETCHERS' FOR TINCTURES, INFUSIONS, AND SYRUPS.**  
**CONCENTRATED LIQUORS**  
Sole Proprietors:  
FLETCHER, FLETCHER & CO., Ltd  
London and Sydney.

## Editorial Articles.

### Medicines for Merchant Ships.

UNDER the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, the Board of Trade is empowered to issue graduated schedules of medicines and medical stores and necessities which must be carried on all merchant and emigrant ships leaving the United Kingdom. These schedules or medical scales are revised from time to time, the last one being in 1900. At the end of last year a new Committee of Revision was constituted, and this committee, consisting of five medical men and one pharmaceutical chemist, after fifteen meetings at which various witnesses were examined, has issued a report to the Board of Trade, which is given on p. 44. Apart from the alterations which have been made in the medical scale, there are some recommendations which interest the drug-trade. The committee, for instance, is very severe on the practice which has sprung up on ships of certain officials selling sea-sickness cures and other remedial agents. It is easy to see the medical mind working here, and to realise the difficulties which the chemist member would have in convincing his fellow-committeemen that the sale of these drugs on board ship is in itself a testimony of the insufficiency of the medical scale. One



paragraph of the report deals with the quality of the drugs, and recommends that the penal clause in the Merchant Shipping Act regarding the manufacture, keeping, or sale for use on board ships of drugs of bad quality be printed on each medical scale. The other suggestion which was put forward by the pharmaceutical interests—that the drugs be supplied only by qualified chemists—is not referred to, and apparently did not find favour in the eyes of the committee. A very guarded reference is made as to the employment of “a qualified dispenser” on emigrant ships carrying more than 1,500 persons; it is put forward merely with a view to further facilitating the duties of the medical officer. Apparently under the impression that it is intended to enforce at once the provision of a qualified dispenser on emigrant ships the “Liverpool Journal of Commerce” protests against this additional burden on shipowners. That journal, which has obtained the information from the remarks of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society at the August Council-meeting, states:

With due deference to the members of the Pharmaceutical Society, we hold the opinion that there is absolutely no need for the creation of this extra official on board ship. The Departmental Committee have made numerous additions to the drugs to be carried, and if such measures of inspection are adopted as will ensure that these are of good quality there is no reason why the dispensing should not be continued to be done as at present. Many thousands of successful medical practitioners on shore prefer to dispense drugs for themselves, and absolutely no case has been made out for throwing on shipowners a special burden merely for the purpose of providing pharmaceutical chemists with “a new official position.”

The alterations in the medical scales are comparatively slight. Boric acid, glycerin, lead and opium pills, tincture of calumba, and calomel ointment have been added, while bromide of potassium has been substituted for the ammonium salt. Salvo petrolia as an alternative to vaseline is replaced by soft paraffin (paraffinum molle). Dover's powder has now to be supplied in tablet form instead of as a powder. In several cases alterations have been made in the quantities of the drugs that have to be kept on board. These are usually reductions, as in the case of camphorated linseed-meal and zinc sulphate, but there are instances where the amount is increased, usually in cases where larger numbers of men are on board. The list of medical stores has undergone more alterations comparatively. Adhesive plaster is to be supplied in 1-in. and 2-in. reels of 5 yards, plain lint is added, and the amount of boric acid has been increased. The lint is apparently to be employed in place of the sterilised sponges which have been struck out of the new schedule. There have been added the following: Waterproof cambrie, poison-bottles, plain and poison labels, chip ointment-boxes, a spatula, scalpel, glycerin-syringe (the ordinary syringes are also to have rubber plungers), finger-bandages (1-in.), stomach-tube, dressing-forceps, artery-forceps, throat-brushes, dispensary-paper, eye-shades, an enamelled iron basin, and condensed milk. The bed-pan is to be of enamelled iron. It should also be remarked that the poisonous medicines indicated by two asterisks are to be contained in green fluted bottles, and in addition to the word “Poison” are to be labelled “For external use only.” Articles against which one or two asterisks are placed have to be stored separately from the other articles in the scale. What is known as the “emergency scale” has been altered in consonance with the larger scale. The additions are lint, a 2-dr. measure, a clinical thermometer, and safety-pins. Official notice will probably be issued as to when the revised scales come into operation, and in the meantime makers of medicine-chests and suppliers of ships' drugs can be making provision to meet the alterations which we have indicated above.

## Pharmacopœia Revision.

THE issue of further reports by the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy to the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council completes the work of this sub-committee to July 31. The report which has been sent us by the Acting Registrar of the General Medical Council has a supplement, but whether this is the final report of the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy, as was anticipated, is not quite clear, because certain questions are left open, and there is still to come the official reports of the sub-committee dealing with ointments. It may be recalled that, after the publication of the British Pharmacopœia in 1893, the General Medical Council adopted a system of issuing digests of researches and criticisms of pharmacopœial processes. Dr. John Attfield issued the first of these in 1900, the continuing report, bringing the digest to the end of 1902, being by Mr. W. Chattaway, of the Apothecaries' Hall. The General Medical Council then saw the desirability of appointing a committee of pharmaceutical experts to undertake some problems which criticism had shown to be much needed. The result was that a Committee of Reference in Pharmacy was constituted, which has continued to the present with but slight alterations in its membership. It consists of Mr. Walter Hills (Chairman) and Messrs. W. N. Allen, G. D. Beggs, F. C. J. Bird, J. E. Brunker, M.A., W. Inglis Clark, D.Sc., D. B. Dott, C. A. Hill, W. Kirkby, E. W. Lucas, J. F. Tocher, J. C. Umney, R. Wright, and H. G. Greenish (Secretary). This Committee has issued a series of reports, the dates of which we place on record for convenience of reference.

Report issued December 1906, and published in abstract in the *C. & D.*, December 8.

Supplementary report, issued in 1907, dealing with the International Potent Drugs Agreement, which resulted from the Conference in Brussels in 1902.

Report issued in 1909 bringing the work of revision up to October 29, 1908. Published in abstract in the *C. & D.*, February 20, 1909.

Report bringing the work up to December 16, 1909, published in the *C. & D.*, July 9, 1910.

Final report with supplement bringing the work up to July 31 of this year. Abstracts of these are printed in this issue.

In addition to these reports may be mentioned the report on arsenic tests by Professor Wyndham Dunstan and Mr. Robinson issued in 1904. The Committee also undertook in 1907 an elaborate analysis of prescriptions with a view to finding out the frequency with which the various drugs in the Pharmacopœia are prescribed. This gave the Committee useful data in regard to the deletion of obsolete drugs. The plan has also been adopted of inviting criticisms of the work of the Committee by public discussions. Mr. Lunan in 1906 read a paper at Edinburgh on “Effervescent Granules,” and Mr. Boa this year dealt at the same place with one aspect of the revision of the formulæ of the official ointments. Professor Wild, of Manchester, assisted by Mr. Grier and Mr. Hanna, is dealing with other problems of the ointment question. There have also been the useful discussions which followed the reading of papers in London by Messrs. Hill and Umney on the essential oils of the Pharmacopœia, and Messrs. Bird and Lucas on the fixed oils and fats. The columns of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* have also been open for constructive criticisms, and we recall the research by Mr. C. A. Hill on the lead-tests in 1909, and the earlier suggestions for revision which were contributed by Mr. Harvey, of Nottingham. The reports of the Committee of Reference give a useful insight into the modern method of making the national Pharmacopœia. The older process was either that the work was entrusted to one man or a committee of three or four experts,

but criticism convinced the General Medical Council that it is absolutely necessary at the present day that the best pharmaceutical advice must be obtained. It must be acknowledged that all reasonable means are now taken to ascertain the views of pharmacists on pharmaceutical matters. It will be obvious that many of the questions dealt with by the Committee are matters of opinion and have to be settled in accordance with prevailing views; but it cannot be said that the Committee do not avail themselves of the suggestions that they receive. This point is usefully shown in regard to spiritus ætheris nitrosi. The B.P. 1898 required a minimum of 1.75 per cent. by weight of ethyl nitrite, and this view was adhered to in the final report, but in the supplemental report, dated July 31, it is recommended that this be reduced to 1.51 per cent. by weight of ethyl nitrite. This embodies recent demands of the Chemists' Defence Association, who have collected much information on this point in the course of the last few years. The reports, as a whole, are calculated to give pharmacists a very good idea of the progress of pharmacy within the last few years, and by comparing the various recommendations and suggested monographs one will find little difficulty in constructing a skeleton of the new Pharmacopœia which, long overdue, should be published not later than 1912.

### The Draft Dental Bill.

The result of the referendum of the members taken by the British Dental Association has not given satisfaction. We referred to the matter in our issue of July 22, index folio 119. We find that the new President (Mr. W. B. Paterson, F.R.C.S.) of the Association shares the conviction that the result of the referendum is unsatisfactory. In his address at the annual meeting he said:

The referendum that we have just taken upon the question of a new Dentists Bill, a Bill containing provisions for the recognition of a large number of persons who are now practising dentistry without having passed a State examination, or any public test of fitness at all, has shown us to be equally divided in opinion as an association; and, what is to my mind worse, it has paralysed our Representative Board as an Executive on the question. Personally, I have always considered the referendum to be an unsuitable and an undesirable method of obtaining opinion upon a question so difficult and complex as our Dental Bill, and I have never concealed my aversion to it. Intimate knowledge of its working has only served to deepen my conviction that the referendum, with its apparently simple answer of "yes" or "no," is a dangerous weapon to use. And may I add in parenthesis that signs were not lacking in the working of our referendum of the great tendency that a referendum has of accumulating negative answers on every conceivable side issue, to the complete exclusion of a full and whole-minded consideration of the main question? During the consideration of the referendum result at our business meetings, the play of forces and the keen spirit of rivalry only too obviously demonstrated the spirit of unrest that this debatable question and the new method of dealing with it has called into being. The Bill, as we knew it before the referendum, is dead. To debate it in its old shape is equivalent to slaying the slain. Let us bury the hatchet of discord, and adopt a more charitable and sympathetic attitude towards one another. Dental practice by the unregistered and unqualified is evidently not yet to be prohibited, and we may have to mark time for long before it comes to pass. Bickerings and internal dissensions will do us no good in the meanwhile.

The Representative Board which met at the London University on August 3 had before them the report of the Legislation Committee regarding the draft Bill. The committee had prepared another draft Bill by deleting the clauses relating to the granting of certificates to unregistered persons and to the annual tax. Some of the members, however, did not sign the report, as they considered that the committee was not instructed to draw up an amended Bill. The Board discussed the matter for

some time, and finally the motion "that the report be received" was negatived by the casting vote of the Chairman.

### Poisonings in Ireland during 1910.

The forty-seventh annual report of the Registrar-General for Ireland shows that out of 74,894 deaths in 1910, among a population estimated at 4,368,599, only fifty-four were due to poisoning, if ptomaine-poisoning (responsible for twelve fatalities) is excluded. The table given below, which is compiled from the report, allows comparison of the accidental and suicidal deaths from the various poisons during the years 1909 and 1910:

Poisons Used	1909		1910	
	Acci- dent	Suicide	Acci- dent	Suicide
A.B.C. liniment ... ..	1	—	—	—
Acid—				
Carbolic ... ..	4	5	2	1
Hydrochloric ... ..	—	—	—	1
Nitric ... ..	—	—	1	—
Oxalic ... ..	—	—	1	—
Sulphuric ... ..	3	—	—	—
Alcohol ... ..	1	—	2	—
Ammonia ... ..	2	1	1	—
Ammoniated camphor lini- ment ... ..	—	—	—	1
Anæsthetics ... ..	2	—	3	—
Aspirin ... ..	1	—	—	—
Atropine ... ..	1	—	—	—
Barium sulphide ... ..	—	1	—	—
Belladonna "saponis" ...	—	—	1	—
Bromidia ... ..	1	—	—	—
Carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and coal gas	12	2	10	2
Corrosive sublimate ...	2	2	1	—
Lead ... ..	4	—	6	—
Lime ... ..	—	—	1	—
Lysol ... ..	—	—	1	—
Opium, laudanum, morphine	4	1	4	3
Potassium cyanide ...	—	—	—	1
Strychnine ... ..	1	5	1	3
Sulphuretted hydrogen ...	—	—	1	—
Trional ... ..	—	—	1	—
Kind not stated ... ..	—	1	4	1
Total ... ..	39	18	41	13

The proportion of suicidal deaths in Ireland is remarkably small, being less than a quarter of that in England and Wales when the population basis is considered. Such figures form splendid testimony to the careful supervision exercised by Irish pharmacutists and druggists in the sale of poisonous substances.

### The Railway Strike.

On Thursday night (August 17) it was estimated that about 200,000 railway-men struck work, with the result that the railway traffic throughout the country was disorganised in a manner never before known in any labour dispute. The strike was ordered after the failure of a conference arranged by the Government. The men's leaders asked the railway managers to meet them in conference, but this the managers refused to do. The Government then proposed that a Royal Commission should be appointed, but the labour leaders, believing that their grievances would be indefinitely "hung up" by such a Commission, rejected the idea, and the strike was ordered. The effect was startling, especially in the North of England and Wales, where traffic was immediately brought to a standstill; the Midlands and the South of England were only partially affected. The Government immediately took prompt action, full and adequate means being adopted for



the preservation of order. Meanwhile negotiations in which the leading Cabinet Ministers took part were resumed, and late on Saturday night a settlement was announced, to the intense relief of all classes. A Royal Commission consisting of five members has been appointed to inquire into the working of the Conciliation Boards, and to report with the least possible delay. Assurances have been given by both sides that they will accept the findings of the Commission. It is understood that a guarantee has been given by the Government that power will be given, if necessary, for the railway companies to raise their passenger and freight rates. Meanwhile both the dock and railway strikes have had a serious effect upon the food-supply of the country, and prices of provisions have risen in many districts. The drug and chemical trades have also suffered by the dislocation of the railways and stoppage of factories for lack of raw materials or coal, and some weeks must elapse before matters again resume a normal condition.

### Hiera Picra.

It is perhaps an instance of the tendency of the practice of medicine and surgery to be carried on in "watertight compartments" when one finds Mr. D'Arcy Power writing to the "British Medical Journal" with an expression of surprise that hiera picra is still in use. It is, of course, one of the commonplace drugs of the pharmacy, and is taken on account of the aloes and canella it contains. Mr. Power, under the impression that the drug is used as an abortifacient, inquires "when, if ever, was the cantharides added to the formula, and when did the electuary become a pill?" Other correspondents have since pointed out the composition of the powder; but it may well be noted here that Mr. Power, who has considerable archaeological attainments, has not displayed his usual acumen in his investigation of the origin and uses of this drug—at least to judge from his letter in the "British Medical Journal." A good account of the origin of hiera picra is to be found in Wootton's "Chronicles of Pharmacy," and the historical aspect has at various times come before our readers. The hieras are a class of preparations, but the present-day hiera picra is considered to have descended from the hiera simplex of Galen. The last time hiera picra was officially recognised in this country was in the P.L. 1788, where it appears as a mixture of powdered aloes and canella under the name of pulv. aloeticus, and in the index with the additional information "olim hiera picra." It is probably one of the oldest pharmaceutical compounds in existence, and can be bought to-day as readily as it could be obtained in Damascus a thousand or in Rome and Alexandria two thousand years ago. The composition of the various hieras varied considerably; aloes was always an ingredient, but we have never seen a formula in which cantharides was contained.

### Mil v. C.C.

The attempt has been made in this country to apply the word "mil" in place of c.c. in metric measurements. The "inventors" of the expression seemed not to be aware that the term was already in use with another meaning. The evolution of language demands that to avoid confusion new meanings should not be attached to old words. The Committee of Revision of the National Formulary have decided that the term "mil" is an undesirable substitute for the abbreviation c.c. in the new edition of that work. Mr. Otto Raubenheimer, in the "American Druggist," points out that "mil" can very easily be mistaken for the well-known milligramme, and that in the United States a "mill" is the equivalent of one-tenth of a cent. It is as well to avoid further complicating the metric system. The system has already had grafted upon it a number of confusing differences, which will before long take away the argument of the advocates of the metric system that it is the simplest of any system of weights and measures.

## TRADE NOTES.

MESSRS. W. GIMBER & SONS, surgical-bandage makers, 44 Queen's Road, Peckham, London, S.E., notify that their telephone number is now "New Cross 1601."

PLASMON COCOA.—Plasmon, Ltd., 66A Farringdon Street, London, E.C., make in our advertisement columns a special bonus offer on orders received for Plasmon cocoa during the month of September.

SALLE'S CHEMICALS.—Stock samples of the chemical manufactures of Messrs. H. Salle & Co., Paris, are kept by the London agents, Messrs. Bennett Bros., 74 Coleman Street, E.C., from whom also are obtainable the lowest quotations.

"TIZ."—The sole agency for the United Kingdom is now transferred to Messrs. Francis Newbery & Sons, Ltd., 27-28 Charterhouse Square, London, E.C., who will henceforward act as agents for the proprietors, Messrs. Walter Luther Dodge & Co.

ITALIAN PRODUCE.—Messrs. Arthur Oulmann & Co., Ltd. Leghorn, exporters of Italian produce, are represented in this country by their sole agents, Messrs. Sparks, White & Co., Ltd., Albion Mills, Tenter Street East, London. The latter company have branches in Manchester and Glasgow.

OPTICAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE.—The Spectacle-makers' Company are recommending to their diplomates the optical indemnity policy of the Scottish Metropolitan Assurance Co., Ltd., 8 King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C., from whom a combined prospectus and proposal form is obtainable.

P.A.T.A. PRICES.—The additions to the Protected List during August are: Aspirin tablets, Bayer's additional preparations, John Knight's additional preparations, Juveno, Parke, Davis & Co.'s additional preparations, Reducine, and Vegetine pills. The removals are Zenobia preparations.

CAPTAIN WYNDHAM'S ROYAL WATER-SOFTENER, which has been before the public in a limited sphere, is now to be extensively advertised. It has also been arranged that the wholesale prices will in future be reduced so as to make the article a profitable selling line. The proprietors—Wyndham's Water-softener, Ltd., 65 and 66 Wool Exchange, London, E.C., supply showcards on application.

SALVARSAN.—Messrs. Meister Lucius & Brüning, Ltd., 51 St. Mary Axe, London, E.C., have published a book of 155 pages, giving the history, methods of preparing, dose, and clinical reports on Salvarsan. It is stated that the remedy "has now been employed on 14,000 patients, and only a small and diminishing proportion of unpleasant episodes have been met with, which may in the future be completely avoided." An index of the literature of the subject is given at the end, but we do not find in this any reference to Martindale and Westcott's book, which was published last year.

## BUSINESS CHANGES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. G. F. HIRD, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business of Mr. H. Hutchinson, Market Place, Northallerton.

MR. W. C. FORD, chemist and druggist, has disposed of his branch business at 10A Belgrave Market, Ilford, to Mr. W. Hunt, his manager there.

MR. W. H. BOREHAM, chemist and druggist, late of St. Margarets, Twickenham, has purchased the business of Mr. W. N. Leighton, pharmacist, The Broadway, Hanwell, Middlesex.

"THE HOME OF THE PERFUME INDUSTRY will in future be in Australia by virtue of that country's flora," stated Mr. R. T. Baker, Curator of the Sydney Technological Museum, in a recent lecture. "Piperitone (more valuable medicinally than eucalyptol) and French and American oil of turpentine could be obtained from Australian gum-trees."

## The British Pharmacopoeia.

THE Committee of Reference in Pharmacy issued recently a third report to the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council, which has now been printed. The Acting Registrar has sent us an advance copy, but the report will also be obtainable this week in the ordinary way from Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., Ltd., 5 New Street Square, London, E.C., price 1s., by post 1s. 1d. Previous reports were published in 1906, 1909, and 1910, and were given in abstract in the *C. & D.*, December 8, 1906, February 20, 1909, and July 2, 1910. The present report, called the "third," includes the results of work done by the Committee of Reference in connection with the revision of the British Pharmacopœia from January 20, 1910, to May 18, 1911, and there has also been issued a supplementary report, dated July 31, which we also deal with. The purpose of the following abstracts of the report is to give the principal suggestions, altered formulæ and monographs which are proposed for inclusion in the next edition of the British Pharmacopœia.

The third report consists of 35 pages, from which the following notes are taken, and an Appendix giving the processes for (1) determination of the acid-value of fixed oils, fats, waxes and resins, (2) determination of the saponification-value of fixed oils, fats, waxes and resins, (3) determination of unsaponifiable matter, (4) saponification process for volatile oils, (5) acetylation process for volatile oils.

**Acetum Scillæ.** Recommended to be made double strength so that oxymel of squill be made by mixing clarified honey with vinegar of squill.

Squill, bruised	...	...	...	10
Acetic Acid	...	...	...	10 (by volume)
Distilled Water	...	...	...	32 (by volume)

Macerate for seven days, press and filter.

**Tests.**—Specific gravity 1.070; 10 c.c. should require for neutralisation not less than 10.8 c.c. of volumetric solution of sodium hydroxide corresponding to at least 6.5 per cent. of acetic acid,  $\text{HC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2$ . (Compare Oxymel Scillæ, and Acetum Scillæ, Report, 1908, p. 3.)

Here follow new monographs for adeps præparatus, adeps benzoatus, adeps lanae, cera alba, cera flava, and cetaceum in accordance with the suggestions of Lucas and Bird (*C. & D.*, October 15, 1910, index folio 591).

**Ammonii Carbonas.**—Titration-value previously proposed is unduly low. 1 Gm. should require at least 18.2 c.c. of the volumetric solution of sulphuric acid for neutralisation, corresponding to at least 31 per cent. of ammonia,  $\text{NH}_3$ .

**Glusidum.**—New monograph:

Glusidum.  
Gluside.

**Synonym.**—Benzoic Sulphimide. Commercially known as Saccharin.

The anhydride of ortho-sulphamido-benzoic acid,  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_5\text{NSO}_2$ , prepared from toluene.

**Characters and Tests.**—A white crystalline powder, possessing an intensely sweet taste in dilute solutions. Melting-point  $220^\circ$  to  $225^\circ \text{C}$ ., soluble in 400 parts of cold water, in 28 parts of boiling water, and in 38 parts of alcohol (90 per cent.); 1 Gm. should be completely soluble in 12 c.c. of acetone at  $15^\circ \text{C}$ . It is soluble in solutions of alkalis and alkaline carbonates, the neutral sodium compound being known as "soluble saccharin." 1 Gm. heated for four hours on a water-bath with 10 c.c. of 70 per cent. sulphuric acid should completely dissolve, and when the solution is diluted with an equal volume of water and allowed to stand for twenty-four hours no crystals should separate. When gently warmed for a short time with concentrated sulphuric acid no blackening should occur.

**Jalapa.**—Resin-yield of commercial jalap not less than 9 or more than 11 per cent.

**Liquor Ammonia Fortis.**—The specific gravity should be 0.888, corresponding to 32.5 per cent. of  $\text{NH}_3$  by weight, and the solution diluted with twice its volume of water yields a liquor ammoniac, agreeing with the official requirements. In the test for tarry matters sulphuric acid should be substituted for hydrochloric. No appreciable residue after evaporation on a water-bath.

**Liquor Bismuthi.**—New formula:

Bismuth Subnitrate	...	...	...	...	35
Citric Acid	...	...	...	...	26
Distilled Water	...	...	...	...	a sufficient quantity

Powder the citric acid and mix it in a mortar with the bismuth subnitrate and 10 of distilled water. Allow the mixture to stand, with occasional stirring, for half-an-hour, or until a small portion is completely soluble in solution of ammonia. Transfer to a flask, using 200 of distilled water to rinse the mortar. Allow the bismuth citrate to settle, decant the clear liquid, and wash with three

successive quantities of 200 of distilled water. Add to the moist bismuth citrate just sufficient solution of ammonia to form a clear solution, and dilute to 500 by volume.

In the tests the determination of the bismuth as oxide should be substituted for that as sulphide. 10 c.c. should yield not less than 0.5 Gm. of bismuth oxide.

**Liquor Epispasticus.**—New formula:

Cantharidin	...	...	...	...	1
Castor Oil	...	...	...	...	6
Resin	...	...	...	...	3
Acetic Ether (or Acetone)	...	...	...	...	240

Dissolve.

**Liquor Ferri-Perchloridi Fortis.**—The specific gravity and the required yield of oxide are not compatible; the yield of oxide should be retained as at present—viz., 1.6 Gm. from 5 c.c., and the specific gravity altered to about 1.49. Test for excess of nitric acid:

On adding a clear crystal of ferrous sulphate to a cooled mixture of equal volumes of concentrated sulphuric acid and of the solution diluted with nine times its volume of distilled water, the crystal should not become coloured brown, nor should a brownish-black colour develop around it.

**Liquor Hamamelidis.**—New monograph:

A liquid obtained by distilling the fresh twigs of the witch-hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, Linn., collected in winter and early summer, employing about 2,000 Gm. for each 1,000 c.c. of distillate and sufficient alcohol to make the distillate contain about 14 per cent. of absolute alcohol by volume. **Characters and Test.**—A colourless liquid with a slight characteristic odour. Specific gravity 0.980 to 0.985.

**Liquor Hydrargyri Perchloridi.**—Protect from light.

**Liquor Hydrogenii Peroxidi.**—Assay process:

"Introduce 2 c.c. of the solution into a brine-charged nitrometer, rinsing the last traces in with a few drops of distilled water. Then add 4 c.c. of solution of copper ammonio-sulphate and shake vigorously. From 18 to 22 c.c. of oxygen should be liberated." The acidity, calculated as  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , and using methyl orange as indicator, should not exceed 0.1 per cent., and the residue obtained on evaporating to dryness on a water-bath should not exceed 0.75 per cent.

**Liquor Pancreatis.**—Menstruum a mixture of alcohol (90 per cent.) 25 volumes, glycerin 20 volumes, and water sufficient to produce 100 volumes. The test should read:

"If 3 c.c. of the solution, together with 0.2 Gm. of sodium bicarbonate and 20 c.c. of water, be added to 80 c.c. of milk, and the mixture kept at a temperature of  $45^\circ \text{C}$ . for one hour, on shaking 5 c.c. of this liquid with an equal volume of ether and 5 drops of nitric acid no curdy precipitate should appear in the lower layer." The increased quantity of solution employed allows for a reasonable and inevitable loss of strength, and the use of ether allows of the absence of a curdy precipitate being readily observed.

**Liquor Plumbi Subaceticis Dilutus.**—Omit the alcohol.

**Liquor Plumbi Subaceticis Fortis.**—The solid ingredients should be mixed with three-fourths of the water (15 fl. oz., or 750 c.c. respectively) and allowed to stand for forty-eight hours with occasional agitation, the filtrate being made up to volume by washing the filter with distilled water.

**Liquor Potassæ.**—Should contain 5 Gm. of potassium hydroxide,  $\text{KOH}$ , in 100 c.c. 10 c.c. should require for neutralisation not less than 8.9 or more than 9.1 c.c. of the volumetric solution of sulphuric acid. Sp. gr. 1.045.

**Liquor Soda Chlorinata.**—Should be freshly prepared.

**Liquor Trinitrini.**—Synonym "Liquor Glonoini." In the characters, for "trinitroglycerin" read "glyceryl trinitrate."

**Liquor Zinci Chloridi.**—Strength sufficiently defined by the sp. gr.

**Lithii Carbonas.**—Salt should contain 98.5 per cent. of lithium carbonate,  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$ . Assay process:

1 Gm. diffused in about 50 c.c. of water should require at least 26.6 c.c. of the volumetric solution of sulphuric acid for neutralisation, methyl orange being used as an indicator.

**Lithii Citras.**—Omit "deliquescent" and reference to the loss of water. To contain at least 98.5 per cent. of lithium citrate,  $\text{Li}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}_7 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

**Lobelia.**—Ash should not exceed 12 per cent.

**Lotio Hydrargyri Nigra.**—Omit the tragacanth, but retain the glycerin.

**Magnesia Levis, Magnesia Ponderosa.**—Both should be retained, should be free from aluminium and copper, and give not more than the slightest reaction for iron, carbonates, and sulphates.

**Magnesiæ Carbonas Levis, Magnesiæ Carbonas Ponderosa.**—Describe as hydrated carbonates of magnesium, but omit formulæ. Test for lead should be introduced.

**Magnesiæ Sulphas.**—Should be a limit-test for arsenic. Omit tests for aluminium, zinc, calcium, sodium, potassium, and ammonium. Test for iron and insoluble impurities as follows:

10 Gm. dissolved in 20 c.c. of distilled water and heated on a water-bath for one hour should afford a clear, colourless solution (absence of more than traces of iron or of insoluble impurities).



*Mel Depuratum*.—Adjust sp. gr. to 1.36 with water if necessary. New monograph:

Mel.  
Honey.

A saccharine substance deposited in the honeycomb by the bee, *Apis mellifica*, L., and probably other species.

**Characters and Tests.**—A syrupy, translucent, nearly colourless or pale yellow liquid when fresh, becoming opaque and crystalline on keeping and usually containing pollen-grains. Odour aromatic; taste at first very sweet, afterwards faintly acid. Specific gravity not less than 1.40. A solution containing 26.048 Gm. in 100 c.c. of water, decolorised by filtration with animal charcoal and examined in a 200-mm. tube at 60° C., should have a levorotation not exceeding 5.2°. 2 Gm. dissolved in 20 c.c. of hot distilled water and cooled, should not become blue on the addition of one drop of volumetric solution of iodine (absence of starch). It should not afford more than 0.25 per cent. of ash, the solution of which in distilled water should not possess an alkaline reaction and, when acidified with nitric acid, should not afford more than a very faint opalescence either with test solution of barium chloride or of silver nitrate (limit of sulphates and of chlorides). 5 c.c. of a 25 per cent. solution in distilled water, decolorised by filtration with animal charcoal, mixed with 15 c.c. of absolute alcohol, should not become more than faintly opalescent, and 10 c.c. of the same solution should not decolorise more than one drop of volumetric solution of iodine (absence of starch sugar).

*Menthol*.—M.p. from 42° to 43° C.

*Mistura Crota*.—Substitute acacia for tragacanth.

*Mistura Ferri Composita*.—6 Gm. of powdered acacia should be added.

*Mistura Guaiaci*.—Use of the tincture of guaiacum not advisable.

*Mistura Olei Ricini*.—New formula:

Castor Oil	...	...	...	...	75 c.c.
Gum Acacia, in powder	...	...	...	...	20 Gm.
Orange Flower Water of Commerce, undiluted	...	...	...	...	30 c.c.
Cinnamon Water	...	...	...	...	a sufficient quantity

Triturate the castor oil with the powdered gum in a dry mortar; add, in one portion, 40 c.c. of cinnamon-water, and continue the trituration until the oil is completely emulsified; then add the orange-flower water and sufficient cinnamon-water to produce 200 c.c.

*Morphine Hydrochloridum*.—The solubility in cold water 1 in 25, in alcohol to 1 in 69 of alcohol (90 per cent.).

*Mucilago Acacia*.—Should be freshly prepared.

*Myristica*.—Further description to distinguish more sharply the official from unofficial nutmegs.

*Myrrha*.—Not more than 70 per cent. should be insoluble in alcohol (90 per cent.); ash should not exceed 5 per cent.; the nitric-acid test defined.

Then follows monographs for the fixed and solid oils, etc., and essential oils embodying the alterations suggested by Hill and Umney and Lucas and Bird as modified by subsequent criticism. These were reported in the *C. & D.* during 1910. The following oils are dealt with: *Oleum amygdalæ*, *oleum anethi*, *oleum anisi*, *oleum anthemidis*, *oleum cajuputi*, *oleum carui*, *oleum caryophylli*, *oleum cinnamomi*, *oleum copaibæ* (recommended that an inquiry be instituted from a medical standpoint into the relative values of the oil and resin of copaiba), *oleum coriandri*, *oleum cubebæ*, *oleum eucalypti*, *oleum juniperi*, *oleum lavandulæ*, *oleum limonis*, *oleum lini*, *oleum menthæ piperitæ*, *oleum menthæ viridis*, *oleum morrhue*, *oleum myristicæ*, *oleum olivæ*, *oleum pimentæ*, *oleum pini*, *oleum ricini*, *oleum rosæ*, *oleum rosmarini*, *oleum santali*, *oleum sinapis volatile*, *oleum terebinthinæ rectificata*, *oleum theobromatis*, *paraffinum durum*, *paraffinum liquidum*, *paraffinum molle*, *sebum præparatum*.

*Oxymel Scillæ*.—New formula:

Vinegar of Squill	...	...	...	2 volumes
Clarified Honey	...	...	...	5 volumes

Mix.

**Tests.**—Specific gravity 1.32. If 25 Gm. of the oxymel are mixed with 1 c.c. of strong solution of lead subacetate, diluted to 100 c.c. with distilled water and 1 Gm. of powdered animal charcoal added, the liquid filtered bright, should exhibit a levorotation not exceeding 5.0° when examined in a tube 200 mm. long at 16° C. 25 Gm. should require for neutralisation not less than 6.25 c.c. of volumetric solution of sodium hydroxide, indicating not less than 1.5 per cent. of hydrogen acetate.

*Paraldehydum*.—Solubility 1 in 9 of water, sp. gr. 0.998 to 1.000; m.p. not under 10° C.

*Pepsinum*.—New monograph:

Pepsinum.  
Pepsin.

An enzyme obtained from the fresh and healthy stomach of the pig, sheep, or calf.

**Characters and Tests.**—A light yellowish-brown powder, or pale yellowish, translucent scales, having a faint odour. Tested as follows it should dissolve 2,500 times its weight of coagulated white of egg in six hours, the resulting solution being faintly opalescent. Prepare some coagulated white of egg by boiling fresh eggs in water for fifteen minutes, immersing them in cold water until cool, separating the whites and at once rubbing them through a hair sieve having 12 meshes to a centimetre; the product should be used before it has lost moisture by evaporation. Prepare also a

pepsin solution by triturating 0.25 Gm. of the pepsin with 1 Gm. of sodium chloride in a small mortar until thoroughly mixed, adding acidulated water (6.5 c.c. of hydrochloric acid in 1,000 c.c.) by degrees, continuing the trituration, transferring to a litre flask, washing the mortar with acidulated water to produce 1,000 c.c. and shaking at intervals of fifteen minutes for six hours and immediately before use; 20 c.c. of this solution contains 0.005 Gm. of pepsin.

Introduce 20 c.c. of the pepsin solution into a 250-c.c. flask. Triturate 12.5 Gm. of the freshly coagulated white of egg in a small mortar with 50 c.c. of acidulated water until reduced to uniform granules. Transfer to the flask, washing the mortar with a further 50 c.c. of acidulated water. Immerse in a water-bath so that the contents of the flask are on a lower level than the water in the bath, and digest at a temperature between 40° and 41° C. for six hours, shaking at intervals of fifteen minutes.

*Phenacetinum*.—Solubility in alcohol (90 per cent.) 1 in 21. *Phenazonum*.—M.p. 111° to 113° C.; solubility in water 1 in 1.2, in alcohol (90 per cent.) 1 in 1.3.

*Pilula*.—In all pills containing aloes omit name of the variety.

*Pilula Aloes Barbadosensis* and *Pilula Aloes Socotrina*.—Latter to be deleted and former retained under the name *Pilula Aloes*.

*Pilula Ferri*.—Improved formula:

Liquid Glucose of Commerce	...	...	...	15.0 Gm.
Distilled water	...	...	...	2.0 c.c.
Exsiccated ferrous Sulphate, in fine powder	...	...	...	15.0 Gm.
Exsiccated Sodium Carbonate, in fine powder	...	...	...	9.5 Gm.
Tragacanth, in powder	...	...	...	1.0 Gm.
Gum Acacia, in powder	...	...	...	3.5 Gm.

Mix the liquid glucose, distilled water, and exsiccated ferrous sulphate, add the exsiccated sodium carbonate, mix, and set aside for ten minutes, or until the reaction is complete; then add the tragacanth and gum acacia, and mix to form a mass.

*Pilula Hydrargyri Subchloridi Composita*.—Improved formula:

Mercurous Chloride	...	...	...	20 Gm.
Sulphurated Antimony	...	...	...	20 Gm.
Guaiacum Resin, in powder	...	...	...	40 Gm.
Gum Acacia, in powder	...	...	...	1 Gm.
Tragacanth, in powder	...	...	...	1 Gm.
Syrup of Glucose	...	...	...	10 Gm.

or a sufficient quantity

Mix to form a mass.

*Pilula Phosphori*.—Improved formula:

Phosphorus	...	...	...	1 Gm.
Oil of Theobroma	...	...	...	20 Gm.
Wool Fat	...	...	...	5 Gm.
Kaolin	...	...	...	8 Gm.
Exsiccated Sodium Sulphate	...	...	...	15 Gm.

Dissolve the phosphorus and half of the oil of theobroma in 10 c.c. of carbon disulphide. Allow the solution to evaporate in a mortar until a pasty mass is obtained. To this add the remainder of the oil of theobroma, together with the other ingredients, and mix to form a mass.

*Pilula Scammonii Composita*.—Improved formula:

Scammony Resin, in powder	...	...	...	10.0 Gm.
Jalap Resin, in powder	...	...	...	10.0 Gm.
Curd Soap, in powder	...	...	...	10.0 Gm.
Tincture of Ginger	...	...	...	30.0 c.c.
Distilled Water	...	...	...	2.5 c.c.

or a sufficient quantity

Evaporate the tincture of ginger on a water-bath to a soft extract; with this triturate the curd soap; transfer the mixture to a mortar, add the powdered resins and sufficient distilled water to form a mass.

*Plumbi Oxidum*.—Slight alterations in wording and do not test for carbonates.

*Podophylli Resina*.—In precipitating, 8 volumes of acidulated water should be used instead of 3.

*Potassa Caustica*.—Transfer to Appendix. To contain at least 85 per cent. of potassium hydroxide, KOH.

*Potassa Sulphurata*.—Slight alterations in description.

*Potassii Acetas*.—To contain at least 90 per cent. of potassium acetate, KC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and lose not more than 10 per cent. of water when dried at 100° C.

*Potassii Bicarbonas*.—To contain at least 99 per cent. of potassium bicarbonate, KHCO<sub>3</sub>.

*Potassii Bichromas*.—If retained, to contain not less than 99 per cent. of potassium bichromate, K<sub>2</sub>Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>.

*Potassii Bromidum*.—Delete test for thiocyanates. Titration with silver nitrate should indicate at least 97 per cent. of potassium bromide, KBr.

*Potassii Carbonas*.—Delete synonym "Salt of Tartar."

*Potassii Chloras*.—To contain at least 99 per cent. of potassium chlorate, KClO<sub>3</sub>; omit solubility in boiling water.

*Potassii Citras*.—Contains 1 molecule of water; formula should be K<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>7</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O. To contain at least 99 per cent. of potassium citrate.

*Potassii Iodidum*.—Dried at 100° C., should contain at least 99 per cent. of potassium iodide, KI.

*Potassii Nitrates*.—To contain at least 99 per cent. of potassium nitrate, KNO<sub>3</sub>; omit solubility in boiling water.

*Potassii Permanganas.*— $\text{KMnO}_4$ . To contain at least 99 per cent. of potassium permanganate,  $\text{KMnO}_4$ .

*Potassii Sulphas.*—To contain at least 99 per cent. of potassium sulphate,  $\text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$ ; omit solubility in boiling water.

*Potassii Tartras.*— $\text{K}_2\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{O}_6 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . To contain at least 99 per cent. of potassium tartrate.

*Potassii Tartras Acidus.*—Delete synonyms. To contain at least 99 per cent. of acid potassium tartrate,  $\text{KHC}_4\text{H}_4\text{O}_6$ .

*Pruni Virginianæ Cortex.*—New monograph:

*Pruni Virginianæ Cortex.*

Wild Cherry Bark.

The bark of *Prunus serotina*, Ehrh., collected in autumn and dried.

**Characters.**—In curved pieces or irregular fragments not exceeding 3 millimetres in thickness, covered with a smooth, thin, reddish-brown cork, or, if this has been removed, exhibiting a greenish-brown cortex. It is marked with transversely elongated lenticles, and breaks with a short, granular fracture, the fractured surface being reddish-grey in colour. The inner surface is reddish-brown and striated or reticulately fissured. The bark contains numerous groups of sclerenchymatous cells of characteristic shape, but no typical bast fibres; the parenchymatous cells contain minute starch-grains and numerous prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate. Taste astringent, aromatic, and bitter, recalling that of bitter almonds.

*Prunum.*—Omit "and bland acidulous."

*Pterocarpi Lignum.*—New monograph:

*Pterocarpi Lignum.*

Red Sanders Wood.

The heartwood of *Pterocarpus santalinus*, Linn. f.

**Characters.**—Irregular logs or billets, freed from the sap-wood; reddish-brown or blackish-brown externally, deep blood-red internally; hard, but easily split longitudinally. The transverse section exhibits under a lens narrow, closely approximated, reddish medullary rays traversing a nearly black wood in which large isolated vessels are scattered. The colouring matter is readily soluble in alcohol (90 per cent.), but almost insoluble in water. The wood has a very slightly astringent taste and, when warmed, exhales a faint aroma.

*Pyrethri Radix.*—Thickness varies from 1 to 2 cm.

*Quillaia Cortex.*—New monograph:

*Quillaia Cortex.*

Quillaia Bark.

The dried inner part of the bark of *Quillaia saponaria*, Molina.

**Characters and Tests.**—In flat pieces from 3 to 8 millimetres thick, but varying considerably in length and width. Outer surface brownish-white, or, where the outer bark has been imperfectly removed, reddish or blackish-brown; finely and often obliquely striated. Inner surface white or yellowish-white and smooth. Fracture splintery and laminated, the tangential surfaces of the laminae often exhibiting glistening prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate. The transverse surface is chequered with delicate radial and tangential lines; under the microscope the transverse section exhibits medullary rays four cells wide, numerous, irregular groups of bast fibres of very varying size, and scattered starch-grains from 4 to 6 microns in diameter. Taste astringent and acid, odour not marked. The powder is extremely irritating to the nostrils, and when vigorously shaken with water imparts to it an abundant froth. The ash should not exceed 15 per cent.

*Rhei Radix.*—New monograph:

*Rhei Rhizoma.*

Rhubarb.

The erect rhizome of *Rheum officinale*, Baill., and other species collected in China and Tibet, deprived of most of its cortex and dried.

**Characters and Tests.**—In compact, firm, cylindrical, barrel-shaped, conical or plano-convex pieces, often perforated, the perforation sometimes containing a fragment of cord. The surface is rounded or slightly angular, but not shrunken, and is marked with reddish-brown lines embedded in a whitish ground-substance; usually covered with a bright brownish-yellow powder. The fracture is granular and uneven, the pinkish-brown fractured surface exhibiting numerous reddish-brown points and lines on a white ground-substance. For a short distance within the cambium the structure is radiate; within there is a more or less distinct ring of closely approximated vascular bundles with central bast and radiating, reddish-brown medullary rays; the parenchymatous cells contain abundant starch-grains, an amorphous yellow substance and very large cluster-crystals of calcium oxalate. The odour is characteristic and somewhat aromatic, and taste bitter and slightly astringent. The drug should not yield more than 12 per cent. of ash.

*Saccharum Lactis.*—New monograph:

*Saccharum Lactis.*

Milk Sugar.

**Synonym.**—Lactose.

A crystallisable sugar,  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , obtained from the whey of milk.

**Characters and Tests.**—A white, odourless powder, or in crystalline masses with a slightly sweet taste. Soluble in 7 parts of cold water and in about 1 part of boiling water. It should not leave more than 0.25 per cent. of ash when incinerated with free access of air. 5 Gm. dissolved in water should not require for neutralisation more than 1.5 c.c. of decinormal volumetric solution of sodium hydroxide (limit of lactic acid). If 5 Gm. be well shaken with 20 c.c. of alcohol (90 per cent.) and filtered off, the filtrate on evaporation should leave no residue (absence of sucrose).

*Saccharum Purificatum.*—New monograph:

*Saccharum Purificatum.*

Refined Sugar.

**Synonym.**—Sucrose.

A crystallised sugar,  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$ , contained in the juice of the sugar cane, sugar beet, and other plants.

**Characters and Tests.**—Colourless inodorous crystals, or in white crystalline masses. Readily and completely soluble in half its weight of water, forming a clear colourless and odourless syrup, which should not develop an unpleasant odour on acidifying with hypophosphorous acid. When the syrup is heated to about 82° C. with test solution of potassic cupric tartrate there should not result more than a trace of a red or yellowish precipitate (absence of glucose). Refined sugar should yield no reaction with the tests for barium, strontium, calcium, chlorides or sulphates, and should not afford more than 0.05 per cent. of ash.

*Salicinum.*—Solubility 1 in 80 parts of alcohol (90 per cent.).

*Salol.*—Solubility 1 in 15 parts of alcohol (90 per cent.).

*Sapo Animalis.*—New monograph:

*Sapo Animalis.*

Curd Soap.

Soap made from sodium hydroxide and purified animal fats consisting principally of stearin; containing not more than 30 per cent. of water.

**Characters and Tests.**—Yellowish-white or greyish-white in colour, nearly inodorous, easily moulded when heated, becoming horny and pulverisable when dried. Sparingly soluble in cold water, completely soluble in hot water, more readily soluble in alcohol. When 5 Gm. of the dried and powdered soap are dissolved in 50 c.c. of boiling alcohol (90 per cent.) and the solution filtered, the filter being thoroughly washed with boiling alcohol, the filtrate should not assume a red or pink coloration with solution of phenolphthalein (absence of alkaline hydroxides); and if the filter be then washed with hot distilled water the washings should require for neutralisation not more than 5 c.c. of decinormal volumetric solution of sulphuric acid, methyl orange being used as indicator (limit of alkaline carbonates). When dried to constant weight at 100° C. it should lose not more than 30 per cent. of moisture. On incineration it yields an ash which does not deliquesce.

*Sapo Durus.*—New monograph:

*Sapo Durus.*

Hard Soap.

Soap made from sodium hydroxide and olive oil; containing about 30 per cent. of water.

**Characters and Tests.**—Greyish-white, yellowish-white, or greenish-white in colour; with a slight odour or nearly inodorous, becoming horny and pulverisable when dried. Soluble in alcohol (90 per cent.), especially on warming; soluble in 20 parts of cold water, and in 1½ parts of hot water. When 5 Gm. of the dried and powdered soap are dissolved in boiling alcohol (90 per cent.), and the solution filtered while hot, the filter being thoroughly washed with more of the boiling alcohol, the filtrate should be neutral to phenolphthalein (absence of alkaline hydroxides and free fatty acids), and the filter when washed with hot water should yield a solution which should not require for neutralisation more than 5 c.c. of decinormal volumetric solution of sulphuric acid, methyl orange being used as indicator (limit of alkaline carbonates). It does not impart a greasy stain to white unglazed paper (absence of free oil). It should lose about 30 per cent. of moisture when dried at 110° C. The mixed fatty acids liberated from the soap by dissolving in hot water, precipitating with a slight excess of hydrochloric acid, heating on a water-bath until the acids form a transparent layer on the surface of the aqueous liquid, then filtering through a wet filter paper, leaving the fatty acids on the filter, washing these with hot water until the washings are neutral to methyl orange, and finally transferring to a dry filter paper and filtering in a warm oven, should have the following characters: Iodine value, 83 to 92; acid value, 195 to 255; melting point, 21° to 26° C.; refractive index at 40° C., 1.4540 to 1.4580.

*Sapo Mollis.*—New monograph:

*Sapo Mollis.*

Soft Soap.

Soap made from potassium hydroxide and olive oil.

**Characters and Tests.**—Yellowish white to yellowish green in colour, nearly inodorous, of an unctuous consistence. Readily soluble in alcohol (90 per cent.), leaving not more than 3 per cent. of insoluble residue. When 5 Gm. of the soap are dissolved in 50 c.c. of boiling alcohol (90 per cent.) and filtered, the filtrate should be neutral to phenolphthalein, and if the filter be then washed with hot distilled water the washings should require for neutralisation not more than 5 c.c. of decinormal volumetric solution of sulphuric acid, methyl orange being used as indicator (limit of alkaline carbonates). It should not impart a greasy stain to white unglazed paper (absence of free oil). On incineration it yields an ash which is very deliquescent and which should afford no reaction with the tests for copper. The mixed fatty acids, liberated and treated as described under "*Sapo Durus*," should comply with the requirements there specified.

*Scammonia Radix.*—"The structure is abnormal, the section exhibiting numerous rounded wood bundles distributed throughout a paler ground tissue in which dark resin cells can be distinguished with a lens; the parenchymatous tissue contains abundant characteristic starch grains."

*Scammonia Resina.*—No reason why *Orizaba jalap-root* should not be recognised as a source of the resin. Monograph accordingly:



**Scammoniae Resina.**  
**Scammony Resin.**

A mixture of resins obtained from scammony root or from *Orizaba jalap* root.

Exhaust the root with alcohol (90 per cent.), recover most of the alcohol by distillation, pour the concentrated tincture into eight times its volume of distilled water, allow the resin that separates to subside, wash it with hot distilled water, and dry at a gentle heat.

**Characters and Tests.**—Brownish, translucent, brittle pieces with a resinous fracture and characteristic, agreeable odour. Entirely soluble in alcohol (90 per cent.); perfectly dry ether dissolves from 55 to 70 per cent. of it. Water triturated with the powdered resin should not dissolve any appreciable portion of it. The acid value (determined as directed in the Appendix) should not exceed 25; the saponification value should range from 180 to 240. 0.1 Gm. dissolved in 5 c.c. of 10 per cent solution of potassium hydroxide, boiled for a few moments and thoroughly cooled, should, on acidification with hydrochloric acid, yield a liquid which may be opalescent but should not immediately become turbid (absence of certain foreign resins). 0.25 Gm. dissolved in 5 c.c. of warm acetic anhydride cooled should not become purple on the addition of 2 drops of sulphuric acid (absence of colophony).

New monograph for *Orizaba Jalap* Root:

**Radix Ipomoeae Orizabensis.**  
**Orizaba Jalap Root.**

The dried root of *Ipomoea Orizabensis*, Ledanois.

**Characters and Test.**—In irregular, tough, or fibrous pieces of varying size and shape, but often portions, 3 to 5 cm. wide and 2 to 4 cm. thick, of transverse slices of large roots. Externally greyish-black and wrinkled, internally greyish or brownish. From the transverse surface coarse fibres protrude in irregular concentric circles. Odour slight, taste faintly acid. The root yields to alcohol (90 per cent.) a mixture of resins which should have the properties described under Scammony Resin.

**Scammonium.**—If retained, ash-limit should be 8 per cent. and the gum resin should yield to alcohol (90 per cent.) at least 70 per cent. of resin. Deletion recommended.

**Scilla.**—New monograph:

**Scilla.**  
**Squill.**

The bulb of *Urginea Scilla*, Steinh., divested of its membranous outer scales, cut into slices, and dried.

**Characters.**—In curved, yellowish-white, somewhat translucent strips from about 2.5 to 5 cm. long, frequently tapering towards both ends; tough and slightly flexible while moist, but brittle and easily pulverisable when dry. Almost inodorous, but with a disagreeable bitter taste. It should yield not more than 5 per cent. of ash.

Powdered squill should be kept quite dry over quicklime.

**Senna Alexandrina.**—"The epidermis of both surfaces consists of polygonal cells and bears one-celled, thick-walled, warty hairs, together with stomata, each stoma being enclosed between two cells with their long axes parallel to the ostiole."

**Serpentaria Rhizoma.**—Not more than 10 per cent. of ash.

**Sinapis.**—Place in the Appendix.

**Sinapis Albae Semina.**—

"Yellow spheroidal seeds about 2 mm. in diameter, with a finely pitted surface and yellowish oily kernel. The transverse section exhibits two folded cotyledons embracing a small radicle. The powder is almost inodorous, and remains so when triturated with water. The taste is pungent."

**Sinapis Nigrae Semina.**—

"Minute dark reddish-brown or greyish-brown spheroidal seeds about 1 mm. in diameter, with a finely pitted surface and yellowish oily kernel. The transverse section exhibits two folded cotyledons embracing a small radicle. The powder is almost inodorous, but exhales an extremely pungent odour when triturated with water. Taste at first slightly bitter, but rapidly becoming extremely pungent."

**Sodii Arsenas.**—Retain the dried salt under name "Sodii Arsenas Exsiccatus." To contain at least 98 per cent. of sodium arsenate,  $\text{Na}_2\text{HAsO}_4$ , and not lose more than 2 per cent. of moisture when dried at  $149^\circ\text{C}$ .

**Sodii Benzoas.**—To contain at least 96 per cent. of sodium benzoate,  $\text{NaC}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}_2$ .

**Sodii Bromidum.**—Titration of the dried salt with silver nitrate should indicate a minimum of 99 per cent. of sodium bromide,  $\text{NaBr}$ . Should not contain more than 5 per cent. of moisture. Omit tests for thiocyanates and barium.

**Sodii Carbonas.**—To contain 99 per cent. of sodium carbonate,  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

**Sodii Chloridum.**—Solubility in water 1 in 3.

**Sodii Hypophosphis.**—Should not lose more than 2 per cent. of moisture when dried at  $110^\circ\text{C}$ . Omit lead test for phosphates and phosphites. Not less than 95 per cent. of sodium hypophosphite,  $\text{NaPH}_2\text{O}_2$ , should be indicated by assay process given.

**Sodii Iodidum.**—Solubility in water 1 in 0.6. Delete qualitative tests for iron, aluminium, calcium magnesium, and ammonium.

**Sodii Nitris.**—Solubility in water 1 in 1.5. To contain not more than 5 per cent. of moisture, and not less than 95 per cent. of sodium nitrite,  $\text{NaNO}_2$ .

**Sodii Phosphas.**—Solubility in water 1 in 7. To contain not less than 99.5 per cent. of sodium phosphate,  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Should yield no characteristic reaction with the tests for sulphates or chlorides.

**Sodii Salicylas.**—Delete water of crystallisation. Solubility in water 1 in 1, and add: "But this solution is liable on standing to deposit crystals of the salt containing 6 molecules of water of crystallisation." Tests for carbolates or sulphocarbolates not necessary. Assayed by titration of the incineration residue should indicate from 99.5 to 100 per cent. of sodium salicylate,  $\text{NaC}_7\text{H}_5\text{O}_3$ .

**Sodii Sulphis.**—Percentage of sodium sulphite,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , reduced to 94. Titration should be carried out by adding the sulphite to excess of iodine solution and titrating back. Introduce lead-limit of 10 per million.

**Spiritus Etheris.**—If made with ether of sp. gr. 0.720, the sp. gr. must be corrected.

**Spiritus Etheris Compositus.**—Recommends deletion.

**Spiritus Etheris Nitrosi.**—Satisfactory process. The weight of ethyl nitrite indicated by 6.25 volumes of nitric oxide gas (in the assay process) should be corrected by making due allowance for the temperature at which the gas is measured. The spirit should be required to contain at least 1.75 per cent. by weight of ethyl nitrite.

**Spiritus Ammoniae Aromaticus.**—Modify the barium chloride test as follows:

To 20 c.c. of the spirit add 5 Gm. of ammonium chloride, agitate vigorously, and add 16 c.c. of test solution of barium chloride. Warm to  $70^\circ\text{C}$ , cool to normal temperature, and filter. The filtrate should give a further precipitate on the addition of more barium chloride solution and warming.

**Spiritus Ammoniae Fatidus.**—Add sp. gr. 0.842 to 0.850.

**Spiritus Armoraciae Compositus.**—Add sp. gr. about 0.922.

**Spiritus Camphora.**—Add sp. gr. 0.845 to 0.850. Optical rotation in a 100-mm. tube not less than  $+4^\circ$  at  $15^\circ\text{C}$ .

**Spiritus Rectificatus.**—In aldehyde test use 20-per-cent. aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide.

**Staphisagriae Semina.**—Give size, 5 to 7 mm. long. Ash-limit unnecessary.

**Stramonii Folia.**—

"The walls of the epidermal cells are sinuous; stomata occur on both surfaces, and the lower surfaces, especially of young leaves, bear curved, multicellular hairs with thin, warty walls, as well as glandular hairs with unicellular or multicellular stalks."

**Strophanthi Semina.**—Assay processes that have been suggested are unreliable.

**Strychnina.**—Delete the permanganate test.

**Strychnina Hydrochloridum.**—Loss of moisture on drying at  $110^\circ$  should not exceed 8 per cent.

**Styrax Preparatus.**—Storax as at present imported contains only about one-half as much total cinnamic acid as formerly. This is being investigated.

**Succus Limonis.**—"The residue obtained on evaporating lemon-juice to dryness should not yield more than 3 per cent. of ash."

**Sulphonal.**—M.p. should be  $125^\circ\text{C}$ ; solubility in alcohol (90 per cent.) 1 in 80.

**Sulphur Praecipitatum.**—Should not contain more free acid than corresponds to 0.1 per cent. of sulphuric acid,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ; non-volatile residue should not exceed 0.5 per cent.

**Sulphur Sublimatum.**—Should not contain more free acid than corresponds to 0.25 per cent. of sulphuric acid,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ .

**Sulphuris Iodidum.**—Under investigation.

**Sumbul Radix.**—For "*Ferula Sumbul*, Hook. f.," read "an undetermined species of *Ferula*."

**Suppositoria Acidi Carbolic.**—Omit the wax.

**Suppositoria Glycerini.**—Modified formula:

Gelatin	...	...	...	...	14
Glycerin by weight	...	...	...	...	70
Distilled water	...	...	...	...	a sufficient quantity

Soak the gelatin in distilled water for five minutes or until thoroughly softened, add the glycerin, dissolve on a water-bath, and evaporate until the mixture weighs 100.

**Syrupus.**—Optical rotation from  $+56^\circ$  to  $+58^\circ$ , and after inversion from  $-17^\circ$  to  $-19^\circ$ .

**Syrupus Calcii Lactophosphatis.**—New monograph:

Syrupus Calcii Lactophosphatis.  
Syrup of Calcium Lactophosphate.

Precipitated Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	25 Gm.
Concentrated Phosphoric Acid	...	...	...	50 c.c.
Lactic Acid	...	...	...	60 c.c.
Refined Sugar	...	...	...	700 Gm.
Orange Flower Water of Commerce (undiluted)	...	...	...	25 c.c.
Distilled Water	...	...	...	a sufficient quantity

Add the precipitated calcium carbonate gradually to the concentrated phosphoric acid and the lactic acid mixed and diluted with 250 c.c. of distilled water. When solution is complete add the undiluted orange-flower water, filter, and wash the filter with 100 c.c. of distilled water. Dissolve the refined sugar in the solution without the aid of heat, and add sufficient distilled water to make 1,000 c.c. of the syrup.

*Syrupus Ferri Iodidi*.—Reduce quantity of iodine to make the strength 5 per cent. of ferrous iodide w/w.

*Syrupus Glucosi*.—Arsenic-limit in the syrup not necessary.

*Syrupus Limonis*.—Not desirable to define the method of clarification.

*Syrupus Scilla*.—In accordance with the proposal to make vinegar of squill of double the present strength, such vinegar would have to be diluted with an equal volume of water.

*Syrupus Tolutanus*.—Instead of boiling the balsam of tolu for half an hour, boiling water should be poured upon it and digestion on a water-bath continued for half an hour.

*Terbecum*.—Tests are under revision.

*Terebinthina Canadensis*.—Omit.

*Tinctura*.—Under investigation.

*Trochiscus Acidi Carbolici*.—Make with the simple basis flavoured with lemon-juice. Each lozenge to contain half a grain of carbolic acid.

*Trochiscus Acidi Tannici*.—Make with the tolu basis.

*Trochiscus Picacuanhar*.—Make with simple basis, adding 1 drop of oil of rose for each 500 lozenges.

*Trochiscus Acidi Benzoici, Catechu, Eucalypti Gummi, Guaiaci Resina, Krameria, Krameria et Cocaine*.—Make with fruit basis.

*Unguenta*.—Under investigation.

### Supplementary Report.

This begins with suggestions for readjusting the strengths of the dilute acids to bring them of the same or nearly the same strength as contained in the Swiss and United States Pharmacopœias. The alterations involve adjustments of the sp. gr. and titration values.

*Acidum Aceticum Dilutum*.—Should contain 5 per cent. by weight of hydrogen acetate,  $\text{HC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2$  (4.27 per cent. at present).

*Acidum Hydrochloricum Dilutum*.—Should contain 10 per cent. by weight of hydrogen chloride,  $\text{HCl}$  (10.58 per cent. at present).

*Acidum Nitricum Dilutum*.—Should contain 10 per cent. by weight of hydrogen nitrate,  $\text{HNO}_3$  (17.44 per cent. at present).

*Acidum Nitrohydrochloricum Dilutum*.—The present method of making should be adhered to.

*Acidum Phosphoricum Dilutum*.—Should contain 10 per cent. by weight of hydrogen phosphate,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$  (13.8 per cent. at present).

*Acidum Sulphuricum Dilutum*.—Should contain 10 per cent. by weight of hydrogen sulphate,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (13.64 per cent. at present).

*Alcohol Absolutum*.—Test for methyl alcohol unnecessary.

*Aloinum*.—Substitution of aloin for aloes in the official preparations not desirable.

*Belladonna Folia*.—Slight alterations in characters; dried leaves to contain not less than 0.3 or more than 0.4 per cent. alkaloids when tested by the process of the U.S.P.

*Cannabis Indica*.—Substitution of *eburnus* for the herb not advisable.

*Colchici Semina*.—No accurate and sufficiently convenient process of assay available.

*Extractum Hyoscyami Viride*.—Standardisation unnecessary. Extractum hyoscyami of the International Agreement should not be introduced.

*Extractum Rhei*.—Should be made with 45 per cent. alcohol instead of 60 per cent. as at present.

*Oilum Limonis*.—Citral content should be determined by A. H. Bennett's hydroxylamine process.

*Spiritus Ethæris Nitrosi*.—In view of the rapidity with which the percentage of ethyl nitrite diminishes, 1 volume should be required to yield not more than 7 or less than 4 volumes of nitric oxide gas, corresponding to not more than 2.65 or less than 1.51 per cent. by weight of ethyl nitrite.

*Syrupus Rhei*.—Replace the coriander-fruit by 4 minims of oil of coriander, which should be dissolved in 40 minims of alcohol (90 per cent.) and added to the syrup.

*Thymol*.—New monograph:

Thymol.

Thymol.

A crystalline substance, isopropylmetacresol,  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}$ , obtained from the volatile oils of *Thymus vulgaris*, Linn., *Monarda punctata*, Linn., and *Carum contumum*, Benth. and Hook. f., purified by recrystallisation from alcohol.

*Characters and Tests*.—In large, oblique prismatic crystals having the odour of thyme and a pungent aromatic taste. It sinks in cold water and melts in a capillary tube at  $50^\circ$  to  $51^\circ$  C. It is almost insoluble in water, but freely soluble in alcohol (90 per cent.), ether, and solutions of alkalis. The crystals evaporate completely at the temperature of a water-bath. A solution of thymol in half its volume of glacial acetic acid, warmed with an equal volume of sulphuric acid, assumes a reddish-violet colour.

*Tinctura Aconiti*.—To approximate conformity with the requirements of the International Agreement should be made with 10 per cent. w/v of the root and with 70 per cent. alcohol, the present strength being 5 per cent. w/v of the root. The root being standardised to a minimum of 0.4 per cent. of

ether-soluble alkaloids the tincture would contain 0.04 per cent. of such, the International Agreement requiring 0.05 per cent. of total alkaloid.

*Tinctura Capsici*.—Should be made with 60 per cent. alcohol instead of 70 per cent.

*Tinctura Cardamomi Composita*.—Should be made with 45 per cent. instead of 60 per cent. alcohol, and the raisins omitted. To the product 10 per cent. of glycerin should be added.

*Tinctura Catechu*.—Should be made with 45 per cent. alcohol instead of 60 per cent.

*Tinctura Cinchonæ Composita*.—The saffron be omitted.

*Tinctura Colchici*.—To approximate conformity with the International Agreement it should be made with 10 per cent. w/v of the seeds and with 70 per cent. alcohol.

*Tinctura Croci*.—Should be made with 45 per cent. alcohol instead of 60 per cent.

*Tinctura Digitalis*.—To approximate conformity with the International Agreement it should be made with 10 per cent. w/v of the leaves and with 70 per cent. alcohol. The present tincture contains 12.5 per cent. of the leaves.

*Tinctura Hyoscyami*.—With the same object in view this should be made with 70 per cent. alcohol instead of 45 per cent. The tincture be made from the leaves and flowering tops as at present, and not from the leaves alone as required by the International Agreement.

*Tinctura Iodi*.—Rarely administered internally and no sufficient reason for altering its present strength.

*Tinctura Nucis Vomica*.—Should be standardised in terms of strychnine, as is at present the case, and not in terms of total alkaloid as required by the International Agreement. The present strength of the tincture should be halved; it would then contain from 0.12 to 0.13 per cent. w/v of strychnine, which would approximately correspond to the 0.25 per cent. of total alkaloid as required by the International Agreement.

*Tinctura Opii*.—To conform with the requirements of the International Agreement should be raised in strength from 0.75 to 1.0 per cent. of morphine, but the strength of alcohol should remain as at present.

*Tinctura Pruni Virginiana*.—To the product 10 per cent. of glycerin should be added.

*Tinctura Rhei Composita*.—Should be made with 45 per cent. alcohol instead of 60 per cent.

*Tinctura Scorpionaria*.—Should be made with 60 per cent. alcohol instead of 70 per cent.

*Tinctura Strophanthi*.—To approximate conformity with the requirements of the International Agreement should be made with 10 per cent. w/v of the seeds—four times as strong as the present tincture.

*Valerianæ Rhizoma*.—Ash should not exceed 10 per cent.

*Veratrina*.—Deletion recommended.

*Vinum Antimonial*.—To bring into approximate conformity with the International Agreement the strength should be diminished from 4 in 875 w/v to 4 in 1000 w/v.

*Vinum Colchici*.—Colchicum seeds (in No. 30 powder) should be substituted for colchicum corn.

*Vinum Ferri*.—Should contain not less than 0.125 or more, than 0.3 per cent. of iron, calculated as Fe. Time for maceration should be omitted.

*Vinum Nicotum*.—The volatile acids, calculated as acetic acid, should vary from 0.1 to 0.2 per cent., and the fixed acids, calculated as tartaric acid, from 0.3 to 0.45 per cent. Test given to exclude salicylic acid.

*Zinci Valerianus*.—Formula should be  $\text{Zn}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and the salt on incineration yield 26 to 27 per cent. of zinc oxide.

## PERSONALITIES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MASTER S. T. T. GEARY, son of Mr. S. Geary, chemist, Oldbury, has passed the Intermediate examination in science of the London University.

MR. H. H. GREENWOOD, of Messrs. Petersen, Ltd., manufacturing chemists, Bloemfontein, who has been on holiday in this country, returned to South Africa on August 12 by s.s. *Kenilworth*.

MR. R. L. MORLAND, Worthington, Minn., U.S.A., President of the Minnesota State Board of Pharmacy, who is on a holiday, arrived in London last week. Mr. Morland will visit Scotland and return home *via* Glasgow.

MR. THOS. C. CLEGG, chemist and druggist, of 57 Lorne Terrace, South Bank, Middlesbrough, had an arm injured on August 20 while out shooting, through his gun accidentally going off. He was taken to the North Ormesby Hospital.



## WESTMINSTER WISDOM.

The Week in Parliament.

### THE PARLIAMENTARY ADJOURNMENT.

After a long discussion on the recent industrial disputes and the attitude of the Government in regard thereto, the House of Commons on August 22 adjourned until October 24 next, when the remaining stages of the National Insurance Bill and the Finance Bill will be under discussion. The proceedings upon these two Bills will, it is anticipated, occupy most of the time up to Christmas.

### CONSUMPTION TREATMENT.

Mr. John Burns was asked on August 17 by Mr. C. Bathurst whether he requested Dr. Kaye, Medical Officer of Health to the West Riding County Council, to visit a maggot-farm and inquire there into the alleged cure for consumption resulting from the inhalation of the trimethylamine and ammonia issuing from maggots found in putrefying meat; and, if so, what was the result of such inquiry.—The President of the Board of Trade said he made no such request to Dr. Kaye, and that he has repeatedly contradicted the assertion.

### CALENDAR REFORM BILL.

The Fixed Calendar Bill, which has been introduced by Sir Henry Dalziel, proposes to substitute for the present irregular calendar a fixed calendar having regular periods, of which the week is a common measure. It differs in some important features from the Calendar Reform Bill introduced on March 16, 1908, by Mr. Robert Pearce. That Bill sought to make the months as uniform in length as possible; but as a difference in this respect is unavoidable in a year with twelve months, it is thought better to increase that difference so as to allow of the week being a common measure of all the months. This arrangement makes it possible for each month to begin on a Sunday and end on a Saturday. The memorandum attached to the Bill states that although the making of a definite and regular difference between the lengths of the months does not introduce any new element into the meaning of the word "month," seeing that the months already differ in length, it has been thought well to codify the present rule determining monthly periods, and to make a rule regarding the computing of monthly salaries. The Bill provides that the conditions of labour on "New Year Day" and "Leap Day," and also the remuneration, shall conform as far as possible to what prevails on Sundays. In meeting the desire for a fixed date for each of the movable Holy Days, it has been thought sufficient to enact a fixed date only for Easter, as all the others are calculated from the date of Easter. As in Mr. Pearce's Bill and in the Calendar Act of 1751, provision is made regarding the comings of age and other events which may be affected by the passing of this Bill. It is provided that the Bill would not become operative until the Crown decides that sufficient international concurrence has been secured.

### OPIUM TRAFFIC.

Mr. Theodore C. Taylor on August 17 asked a series of questions in regard to the opium traffic. He first inquired when the International Conference upon opium and kindred drugs would meet, and Sir E. Grey stated that no date has yet been fixed, but it is hoped that the Conference may meet at some time during the spring of next year.

Mr. Theodore Taylor next asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received a request from China that she shall be allowed under the terms of agreement of May 8 to exclude opium from three of her provinces; and, if so, what action he is taking in this matter.—Sir E. Grey replied: The Chinese Government have expressed a desire to exclude Indian opium from Manchuria, Shansi, and Szechuan, under Article 3 of the Agreement of May 8 last. His Majesty's Minister in Peking has, with our approval, refused to consider the proposal until he is satisfied that breaches of Article 7 of that Agreement by the Chinese authorities in Canton and Fukien have ceased, and that it is the intention of those authorities to fulfil the terms of the agreement in future.

The next question was as to what were the stocks of Malwa and of provision opium respectively on April 1 and at the present time; and how many acres, if any, are now being authorised by the Indian Government to be sown with the opium-poppy for next year's crop.—The Under-Secretary of State for India replied that the stock of Bengal provision opium on March 31 was returned at 32,598 chests. Deducting the number of chests sold for export to China and elsewhere from April to August, the stock is now about 19,700 chests. Malwa opium stocks are in the hands of traders for the most part resident in native States, and are not returned. They were estimated last year at upwards of 50,000 chests. The area for which licences to cultivate opium will be granted this year has been approximately fixed at 200,000 acres.

Mr. Taylor then inquired regarding the policy of the United States in the Philippine Islands as to opium-smokers, and as to what is being done in Hong Kong to stop the vice.

The last question was whether the recommendations of the Straits Opium Commission of 1907 are being fully carried out, and Mr. Harcourt replied in the affirmative.

## The Progress of Perk.

Artist and Rhymer join to show how a pharmacist was evolved.

### IV.

Now fairly launched on Life's disturbed career,  
The sanguine Perk bethinks to prove his zeal;  
So sets about with feverish zest to grind  
To "forty," powders that but "coarse" should be;  
Imparts a brilliance to the ointment-jars;  
A sheen to carboys that would shame the sun.  
But "muddy" liquids are his special bane,  
And filtering proves his *forte*; so, one by one,  
He clears the tinctures, wine of ipecac,  
The lotions, liniments, and waters, till  
The filtering-papers swiftly disappear.



But when sulphuric acid's poured as well  
Through paper, the long-suffering Master wakes,  
And there and then the anxious Perkian zeal  
Is shifted to some less destructive bent.  
Thus sadder, wiser, with some lessons learned,  
Perk adds the "Finis" to his Primal Year.

'Tis thus in youth our misdirected pains  
Etch in the lessons of Life's aftermath.  
We seek to clear corrosive care, but oft  
We but destroy the medium.

## TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., August 24

**A**LTHOUGH general satisfaction is expressed at the termination of the strike, its effect on business is likely to be apparent for several weeks to come owing to the difficulty of obtaining prompt delivery of all classes of produce. The bulk of price changes are upwards, however, as our table shows. They include an advance in German potato-spirit and assimilated products like farina and dextrin, due to the poor outlook for potato-crops. Milk-sugar is also scarce and dearer in sympathy with raw materials. Chamomiles are a shade easier, due to lack of demand, but apart from this the drug will be very dear this season. Cod-liver oil has been in improved request for autumn shipment, buyers covering their wants more freely. Lime-juice is easier. Both opium and quicksilver (seconds) are cheaper. Senega is dull. Among essential oils, the Sicilian essences are all firm, with sweet-orange tending upwards. Ceylon citronella shows a further fractional advance. American peppermint oil is cheaper in one quarter, but the decline is not general. The combination in antimony has collapsed, and an international syndicate has been formed in white-lead. Citric acid is dearer. The chief changes are as follows:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Alcohol (German)	Cardamoms	Chamomiles	Calumba
Benzols	Orange oil	Lime-juice	Coca-leaves
Citric acid		Opium	Sarsaparilla
Citronella oil		Quicksilver	(grey Jam.)
(Ceylon) c.i.f.		(seconds)	
Milk-sugar			
Pepper			

### Cablegram.

NEW YORK: August 24: Business in drugs is fair. Opium is steady at \$7.80 per lb. for druggists' in single packages. Ipecacuanha has advanced to \$2.10. Peppermint oil in tins is firm at \$2.90 per lb. Hydrastis (golden seal) is nominal at \$4.50. Asafetida is lower at 85c., and cascara sagrada is quiet at 9½c. Copaiba balsam is unaltered.

### International White Lead Syndicate.

Inquiries made in reliable trade quarters tend to show that the formation of an International White Lead Combination may be regarded as an accomplished fact. We understand from some large home manufacturers prominently identified with the movement that the scheme has been under discussion for some time past, and that a practical understanding has already been reached, although no definite details have yet been fixed as to the working of the Syndicate. The object is to control market conditions and regulate the output, as far as possible, according to trade requirements. The price of dry white lead is now on the basis of 197 to 197.5s., less 5 per cent. for the home trade. The arrangements in progress having resulted in increasing demands from dealers for ground white lead, it was suddenly decided by the combination to fix a provisional basis price to dealers, which is 227.5s. for lots under five tons, 227. for lots over five tons, and 217. 15s. for 25-ton lots upward. We understand that the Combine will include, German, English, Belgian, and American manufacturers.

### Advance in German Spirit.

A communication has been made by the "Spirit Centrale" to the German Press as follows: "The selling-price of prime spirit for prompt delivery was raised from m.22.90 to m.58.50, and the Centrale has suspended its offers for forward delivery. This must be considered as a temporary step, induced by the very severe drought threatening the potato-crop, whereby the future production of spirit has become uncertain. To start with, it is questionable whether the yield will be sufficient to cover requirements in the coming year. As a precautionary measure, and until conditions can be clearly determined, selling operations have to be restricted pending further developments in spite of the stocks available. Were these stocks, under normal conditions, considered as being large—to constitute a reserve to meet ordinary and regular customers' needs in the coming year—they should not be exposed to a depletion through active speculative buying. In view of the involved prospects, the General Committee of the Centrale have decided not to fix a rebate-price for the next industrial year. The fact that the selling-price has been provisionally raised cannot be regarded as a basis for the future regulation of prices. The latter will depend more upon the further development of the crop and the opinion of the Selling Association of German spirit manufacturers, and also upon the nature of the working conditions of the industry (allotments, average brand, etc.) as fixed every year by the National Council. It will then only be possible to judge whether legal measures will be at all required to facilitate production. The chief standpoint of the General Committee of the Centrale is that spirit manufacturers should make efforts to effectively adapt themselves to the situation."

### Opium in China.

"The Times" correspondent at Peking telegraphed on August 22 that "the British Government is still in a practical manner manifesting its desire to assist China in the suppression of the opium traffic. Beginning on September 1, uncertificated Indian opium, other than the amount requisite for the needs of the opium farmer by the terms of his contract, will be forbidden entry into Hong Kong, nor can it be transhipped in Colonial waters. Since certificated opium, the entry of which into China is permitted, costs in India double the uncertificated, the entry of which into China is prohibited, large quantities of the latter have been imported into Hong Kong, whence in the numberless water-channels of the Canton delta it can easily be smuggled into China. The British Government, recognising China's difficulty, imposes the foregoing prohibition. Persian opium in Hong Kong in the possession of British opium merchants at present amounts to several hundred chests. From January 1, 1912, no Persian opium will be permitted to enter China, although in 1908 merchants were notified that the traffic would only be extinguished gradually, ending in 1916. This year the full allowance of Persian opium permitted under the previous agreement has been already admitted. The Chinese will, however, admit further chests this year, provided that the amount so admitted is deducted from the total Indian opium permitted entrance this year. Meanwhile the question referred to by Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons has been adjusted. The Viceroy of Canton has given a written assurance to the British Consul-General that he will conform to the Edict of July 25 forbidding extra tariff taxation, and in return the British Government consents to the procedure prohibiting in the terms of Article 3 the import of Indian opium in Manchuria, Shansi, and Szechuan, to which places China hopes immediately to add the Metropolitan Province. Thus progress is being made, but imagine the degree of decentralisation of Government in China where a prominent Viceroy is called upon by the British Consul-General to give a written assurance that he will in future obey the Imperial orders of his own Government." [The statement made by Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons confirmed information contained in a despatch from "The Times" Peking correspondent dated July 19. This was to the effect that the Viceroy of Canton had imposed an additional tax on Indian raw opium of 50c. per oz., equal to \$800 a chest, in disregard of the Opium Agreement, which provided that Indian raw opium, having paid full duty, should be exempt from any further taxation in the port of import. The Viceroy made the impost under the pretence of adding 50c. worth of anti-opium medicine to each oz. of raw opium.]

### London Markets.

ALCOHOL.—As reported on this page an advance equal to 2d. per gal. has been made by the German Spirit Centrale, owing to the uncertainty regarding the success of the potato-crop. The London price for perfumers' quality for home use (56 and 68 o.p.) is from 11½d. to 1s. per proof gal., delivered in bond.



**AMERICAN DRUGS.**—The following are a few current quotations for *barks, leaves, roots, etc.* on c.i.f. terms to arrive:—*Barks*—Bayberry 28s. per cwt., black haw of root 10d. per lb., dogwood 4½d., elm 4¾d., sassafras 8d., wild cherry 4d. to 5½d., and witchhazel 3d. per lb.; on spot terms euonymus is offered at 1s. 9d. net and wahoo at 1s. 9d. net ex London warehouse. *Leaves*—Damiana 8d. per lb. net ex warehouse, and witchhazel 3d. per lb., c.i.f. to arrive. *Herbs*—Lobelia 4d., and skull-cap 1s., both c.i.f. to arrive. *Roots*—Blue flag 8½d., burdock 4d., black cohosh, 2½d., blue 3d., elecampane 6d., gelsemium 3½d., ladies' slipper 1s. 3d., culvers 6½d., mandrake 30s., sanguinaria 4½d., and stillingia 4d. per lb., all c.i.f. to arrive; serpentry 1s. 8d. spot.

**ANISE.**—Twenty bags of common Russian sold without reserve at from 18s. 6d. to 19s. per cwt.

**ANISE OIL (STAR)** remains firm at 5s. on the spot for "Red Ship" brand and at 4s. 6d. c.i.f. orders at 1d. less having been refused. A fair number of declarations have been made, but the bulk of the stuff has been sold for consumption.

**ANTIMONY.**—Far from depressing the market further, the disruption of the international combination which had been created early in the year with the object of controlling the market has, on the contrary, exerted a steadying influence upon prices. As we had occasion to remark some time ago, the breaking up of the Syndicate was quite expected. Its position went from bad to worse since last spring, as it was seriously hampered by the existence of large stocks of crude material held by certain syndicate's members and the competition of outside producers. When the Syndicate was formed, the price of English refined was in the neighbourhood of 28l. 10s., from which it was then raised a few pounds per ton by the Syndicate, but the bulk of the business having since been captured by outsiders (representing all the Italian works and certain German and English works), the Syndicate, after a few months of existence, has had to steadily reduce its prices. English refined was sold down to 27l., and Chinese crude material was going begging at about 13l., but the tone is now rather firmer at about 28l. to 28l. 10s. for the former. Chinese refined could have been purchased recently at 26l. 10s., but the sellers have withdrawn on the news of the dissolution of the Combine.

**ARROWROOT.**—At auction 50 cases good Natal sold at 9d. per lb., and 35 barrels St. Vincent were bought in at 2½d. for manufacturing quality.

**BERGAMOT OIL** remains firm at from 20s. 6d. to 20s. 1d. per lb. c.i.f. for prompt shipment

**CAMPHOR (CRUDE).**—China remains quiet, with spot sellers at 15s., and forward shipment at 14s. 6d. c.i.f.

The exports from Japan during the five months ending May amounted to 1,499,418 kin, against 1,164,942 kin in 1910 and 1,292,894 kin in 1909.

**CAMPHOR (REFINED).**—Quiet, with Japanese 2½-lb. slabs offering at 1s. 6d., and 1-oz. tablets at 1s. 7½d.; sellers of slabs quote 1s. 6½d. c.i.f. to arrive.

**CARAWAY-SEED.**—Dutch has advanced from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. from the lowest, new crop offering at from 19s. 6d. to 23s. 6d. as to quality.

**CASCARA SAGRADA** is unaltered at 41s. per cwt. spot and at 42s. for four-year-old bark.

**CASTOR OIL.**—Hull make of pharmaceutical quality is quoted 31l. 15s. per ton, and first pressing at 29l. 5s. in barrels for prompt to December delivery, free on wharf London; tins and cases 50s. per ton extra.

**CHAMOMILES.**—Buyers are holding off at present high rates, and the fact that sellers in primary market are making a few offers of old crop has given an easier tone to the market; new Belgian are obtainable at about 145s., old white at 120s., and old brown at 105s. per cwt. It is reported that the German hop-crop has been a failure this year; if so, this may enhance the demand for chamomiles on the Continent. In the drug-auction 7 bales old crop offered, the limit for fair being 115s. and dull 105s. per cwt.

**CINCHONA.**—The shipments from Java to Europe during the first half of August amounted to 1,202,700 Amst. lb., against 1,202,700 Amst. lb. during the same period of 1910.

**CITRIC ACID** has advanced to 1s. 4d. for English and to 1s. 3½d. for foreign.

The Continental market is also advancing, French dealers quoting fr. 355 per 100 kilos. c.i.f. and Hamburg fr. 362 f.o.b.

**CITRONELLA OIL** has advanced fully ¼d. per lb. for shipment, business having been done at 1s. 0½d. c.i.f. for September-October shipment; but subsequently 1s. 0¾d. was asked.

**CIVET.**—The British Consul at Adis Ababa in his annual report for 1910 states that "tame civet cats are kept in Western Abyssinia, which are scraped every nine days, yielding about 1 *wagia* of civet each time. This is done in presence of the buyer, who immediately adulterates the civet with butter, thereby spoiling his market. The civet in this condition is sold in Moslem countries, such as Jimma, Omdurman and in Aden, the Adis Ababa and Gore selling prices appearing to be about the same—1½ dol. the *wagia* (12 *wagia* to the *rotl*). There is a large quantity of civet available which I imagine is worth the notice of perfumers. Paris prices appear to go as high as 300 fr. the kilo., whereas the Gambeila Customs valuation is 1,300l. E. the *rotl*. The difficulty of trade is that a really expert buyer is required to detect the adulteration. The price in Khartoum is 3l. E. the *rotl*. In 1910 42 kilos only were exported from Gambeila. A monopoly was enforced in the time of Ras Tessama, but this could possibly be obviated, or farmed. In Adis Ababa the export is free, but I have no figures of export." [12 *wagias* or 1 *rotl* = 1 lb. avoird.; dol. = about 2fr. 30 c.]

**CLOVES.**—At auction 100 bales Zanzibar chiefly sold without reserve at 7½d. for fair bright, and 7¾d. for ordinary dark. Privately, market is quiet at 7¾d. per lb. spot nominal, and to arrive, August-October shipment 6¾d.; the sales include September-November at 5¼d. and January-March at 5¾d. c.i.f.; for August-September delivery 7¾d. is quoted.

**COD-LIVER OIL.**—For autumn shipment there has been a better demand lately, business having been done in the leading brands of Norwegian oil at from 105s. to 110s. c.i.f. for round lots, but most sellers have since withdrawn the lower quotations, from 110s. to 115s. being quoted this week. Our Bergen correspondent writes on August 21 that the market is still firm, the quotation for finest non-congealing oil being 103s. 6d. per barrel c.i.f. terms.

**COPPER SULPHATE.**—The London quotation for prompt delivery is unchanged at 20l. per ton for ordinary brands, and in Liverpool 19l. 15s. is quoted for prompt and January-April delivery.

**DEXTRIN.**—In consequence of the precarious outlook for the German potato-crop, the price has been advanced to 16s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. per cwt., according to quality.

**FARINA.**—The anticipated poor yield of the Continental potato-crop is responsible for an advance of 3l. per ton, spot price being from 12s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. per cwt.

**GENTIAN.**—The arrivals comprise 277 bales from Mar-seilles.

**LEMON OIL.**—Interest mainly centres in the prices of new crop for December-January shipment, for which prices from 5s. 2d. to 5s. 6d. c.i.f. are quoted; for prompt shipment 6s. to 6s. 4d. c.i.f. is quoted. There are a fair number of inquiries on the market.

A Palermo advice dated August 19 reports that during the early part of the week a few sales for shipment helped to sustain the market, firm rates to a slight advance being paid. Holders endeavoured to force up prices, but as soon as the requirements were filled buyers retired, and as there has since been little demand, the highest prices asked have not been realised. The market, however, remains very firm at about last week's quotation. There has been more inquiry for new crop from abroad, but little business has so far resulted; buyers are endeavouring to obtain new crop at less than previous prices paid, but so far without success; for shipment 6s. 3½d. c.i.f. is quoted.

**LIME-JUICE.**—A few small arrivals of West Indian have taken place, and owing to the fact that the demand has fallen off on account of present high prices, the tone is easier. Stuff to arrive early in September can be had at

2s. per gal., but for prompt the price is about 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per gal.

MENTHOL is steady on the spot, with small sales to consumers at 16s. 5d. to 16s. 6d. for Kobayashi-Suzuki; for arrival speculative sales of the latter brand are reported at 14s. 10½d. c.i.f. for September-October, and oil at 5s. 7½d. c.i.f.

MILK-SUGAR.—There is difficulty in obtaining offers from makers, owing to the scarcity of milk, as a result of drought, and the fact that the price of sugar has lately advanced; 54s. is asked for small lots in second-hands.

OPIMUM.—There is very little demand to be reported, buyers evidently having filled their requirements for the moment. From Smyrna 11½ per cent. test is quoted at 23s. 6d. per lb., and on the spot Turkey druggists' is not obtainable below 25s. Persian has been sold on the spot at 20s. to 21s. as to test, and for Malatia 26s. has also been paid on the spot, which is 1s. to 2s. cheaper than the prices quoted for firsts and seconds Hadjkeny in Anatolia.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on August 11 that the opium situation continues firm, with prices well maintained. The sales consist of 15 cases old selected Karahissar at 25s. for consumers, and 10 cases new slightly goods at 23s. 9d. to 24s. 3d. for account of local speculators. The arrivals amount to 394 cases, against 2,094 at the same date last year.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on August 12 that the sales of the week amounted to 25 cases at pts 230 for old crop (equivalent to 25s. per lb.), while new crop sold at from the equivalent of 22s. 6d. to 21s. 6d. The arrivals at Smyrna amounted to 333 cases, against 2,094 cases last year at the same date, and at Constantinople the arrivals amounted to 165, against 1,647 cases last year. Without taking into account the paucity of the arrivals, the yield of the present crop is estimated at about 3,000 cases, and it is the general opinion that prices will rise still further. The market closes firmly, and holders are not inclined to part with their stocks easily. At Constantinople prices are better maintained than at Smyrna.

ORANGE OIL.—Sicilian has advanced to 8s. 9d. c.i.f. in one quarter for *sweet*, and spot is obtainable at 8s. to 8s. 3d.

A Palermo advice of August 19 reports a very firm market, both for prompt and new crop, *sweet* offering at 8s. 3½d.

PEPPER.—At auction 40 bags fair to good heavy Ceylon sold at 5½d., being steady; privately fair Singapore is quoted on the spot at 5½d., and for August-October shipment 5½d. has been paid. Of *White* pepper at auction 58 cases superior Ceylon were bought in at 10d. to 10½d., and 30 bags fair Penang at 7½d.; 60 bags fair Siam ex auction sold privately at 7½d.; there are spot buyers. Singapore at 7½d., and the sales for arrival include October-December shipment at 7½d.

PEPPERMINT OIL.—Business has been done in American tin oil in one quarter at 12s. 6d. per lb., up to 13s. 3d. being quoted as to brand. H.G.H. is quoted 15s. 6d., and Japanese dementholised sold at 5s. 6d. c.i.f. for distant shipment.

PIMENTO.—Quiet on the spot at 2½d. per lb., and sellers of August-September at 21s. per cwt. c.i.f.

QUICKSILVER has eased to the extent of 1s. per bottle in second-hands to 8l. 14s. first-hands remaining unchanged at 9l.

QUININE.—Interest centres in the large bark-sale at Amsterdam to-day, where the equivalent of 74 tons of "quinine in the bark" will be offered. The second-hand prices are 7d. for German or Amsterdam and 6¾d. for Java.

The exports of "quinine, quinine-salts, and combinations" from Germany during the six months ending June have been as follows:

	1909	1910	1911
Kilos. ...	70,200	107,100	100,400

SENEGAL.—Demand has fallen off, with the spot price unaltered at 2s. 4d. net.

SHELLAC is barely steady, with a retail business doing, the value of Standard TN being 62s., and for arrival 62s. 6d. c.i.f. is quoted for November-December shipment, and 60s. 6d. c.i.f. for AC Garnet.

SPERMACEIL.—American refined is quoted 1s. per lb. ex-warehouse.

TURPENTINE has shown daily fluctuations, touching 38s. 9d. on Tuesday, but recovering to 39s. 3d. on Wednesday, and closing at 39s. 6d.

WAX.—Japan quiet at 40s. to 41s. on the spot, and at 39s. c.i.f. for September-October shipment.

### London Drug-auctions.

After a month's interval the drug-auctions were resumed to-day, and although the offerings consisted of new and second-hand drugs, by far the bulk comprised the latter, owing to the inability to obtain delivery of cargo in the docks. The demand on the whole was feeble, as confidence has not been fully restored after the recent labour upheaval. Cape aloes did not sell, but were firmly held. Buchu in more demand, fair quantities having been acquired privately. Sumatra benzoin is firm. Calumba sells at low rates, but quality remains poor and stocks plentiful. East African cannabis indica has again been in demand. Cardamoms were about 1d. per lb. dearer. Coca-leaves were in request at rather lower rates. Dragon's-blood is quiet, sales applying to middling lump; the market is well supplied with gamboge, buyers holding off in auction. Honey shows no material change, and ipecacuanha is steady. Myrrh continues neglected. Rhubarb meets with little demand, and the fact that higher prices are quoted from China does not influence buyers to operate. Grey Jamaica sarsaparilla was 1d. easier, but for native Jamaica steady rates were paid. New-crop Tinnevely senna brought a slight advance for the common grades, and full prices for greenish leaf. Beeswax was practically a dead-letter. A larger number of bids than usual is to be submitted to owners privately. The following table shows the quantity of goods offered and sold:

Offered Sold				Offered Sold			
Aloes—				Ipecacuanha—			
Cape .....	52	...	4	Matto Grosso ...	8	...	6
Soeotrine (kegs)	20	...	0	Minas .....	7	...	0
Zanzibar .....	24	...	0	Jalap .....	19	...	0
Ammoniacum .....	32	...	0	Liquorice-pdr. (cwt.)	8	...	0
Anise (Russ.) .....	20	...	20	Mastieh .....	6	...	0
Anise, star .....	25	...	0	Myrrh .....	51	...	0
Annatto-paste .....	1	...	0	Nux Vomica.....	5	...	0
Areca .....	20	...	0	Olibanum .....	32	...	0
Argol (Cape) .....	3	...	0	Orange oil .....	2	...	0
Asafetida .....	51	...	0	Orange-peel .....	18	...	3
Benzoin—				Papain (tin) .....	1	...	0
Siam .....	3	...	1	Peppermint herb			
Sumatra.....	72	...	21	(cwt.) .....	5	...	0
Buehu .....	70	...	11	Rhubarb (China)...	15	...	1
Calumba .....	634	...	246	Salep .....	13	...	0
Canella alba .....	10	...	0	Sarsaparilla—			
Cannabis india .....	12	...	0	Grey Jam.....	12	...	12
Cantharides (Ch.) .....	12	...	0	Native Jam.....	8	...	8
Cardamoms & seed .....	156	...	99	Scammonium (bxs.)	2	...	0
Cascarilla .....	36	...	0	Scammony-root ..	14	...	0
Chamomiles .....	7	...	0	Seedlac .....	103	...	0
Cinchona .....	3	...	0	Senna and pods—			
Cinnamon-leaf oil .....	14	...	0	Alex. ....	159	...	16
Coca-leaves .....	123	...	123	Tinnevely .....	366	...	231
Coloeynth-pulp .....	24	...	0	Sticklac .....	9	...	9
Coriander-seed .....	5	...	0	Strophanthus .....	6	...	0
Cubebs .....	10	...	0	Tamarinds .....	62	...	12
Cuscut .....	44	...	0	Tonka beans (Ang.)	1	...	0
Cuttlefish-bone .....	143	...	0	Turnerie .....	484	...	39
Dragon's-blood .....	22	...	5	Turtle, dried .....	2	...	2
Ergot .....	1	...	0	Wax (bees)—			
Eucalyptus oil.....	57	...	57	Abyssinian .....	116	...	0
Gamboge .....	33	...	0	China .....	10	...	0
Gentian .....	14	...	0	East African .....	55	...	37
Gum acacia (Austral.)	17	...	10	East Indian .....	64	...	0
Honey—				Jamaica .....	3	...	0
Hayti.....	3	...	3	Madagascar .....	184	...	0
Jamaica .....	11	...	11	Nyasaland.....	2	...	0
N.Z. ....	59	...	0	West Indian.....	1	...	1
St. Lueia .....	25	...	25	Zanzibar .....	37	...	0
Kamala .....	4	...	0	Wax—			
Kola .....	9	...	0	Japan .....	95	...	0

ALOES.—Cape were firmly held, but of 52 packages criy four cases sold at 34s. per cwt. for slightly soft dark Mossel Bay seconds on usual 20 per cent. tares; 34s. 6d. was refused for good hard bright firsts. Fifty packages have arrived from Mossel Bay this week.

ARECA.—Twenty bags of Java were retired at 20s. for ordinary part wormy and husky. Fifty bags have arrived from Colombo.

BENZOIN.—The chief interest centred in 3 cases of Siam from Bangkok, of which one sold at 21l. 5s. per cwt. for pale pea-size. For a case of small to bold pale free



almonds, a bid of 31*l.* 10*s.* was refused; also a bid of 24*l.* was refused for pea- and bean-size. Of Sumatra 19 cases sold at 8*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* for good, almondy seconds of slight storax flavour, and for fair seconds, slightly false packed, 7*l.* per cwt. was paid.

**BUCHU.**—In auction about 20 bales round leaf offered, out of a total of 70 packages, but only two bales sold publicly at 4*s.* for fair slightly stalky round greenish. In another instance from 4*s.* 1*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per lb. was asked for ordinary yellowish and very stalky round to fair greenish. Five bales fair longs sold at from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb. subject to sellers' approval for fair greenish longs. Privately there has again been a fair demand for export to U.S.A. in round leaves at rather below the recent nominal values, and the feeling is that the market is on the upward trend. The stock of round leaf on the spot is by no means large, and is in firm hands. Since the above was written we understand further sales have been made ex auction, and the catalogues have been practically cleared of round leaf; the small balance now remaining is held off the market for 4*s.* 6*d.* for good, 3*d.* less having been refused.

**CALUMBA.**—A considerable quantity was offered, of which part sold at very low prices, although the quality was poor. The chief sale was one of 236 packages, which sold at from 11*s.* to 13*s.* for very common lean natural sorts, part stemmy, and for sea and country damaged, 10*s.* was paid. Another lot of 156 bags was not sold publicly, but a bid of 14*s.* is to be submitted for ordinary sound sorts and various bids for sea damaged. Ten bags of fair native washed sorts sold at 22*s.* per cwt.

**CANNABIS INDICA.**—In auction two packages of East African were offered and firmly held at 1*s.* 6*d.* Further business has been done privately in this description at 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb., and as the stocks are concentrated, the market is firmer, 1*s.* 8*d.* being asked at the close. For genuine Bombay tops from 5*s.* 1*d.* to 5*s.* 2*d.* is quoted. Twenty cases have arrived per *City of Lucknow* from Marmagao.

**CANTHARIDES.**—Five cases Chinese were held at 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.

**CARDAMOMS.**—The quantity offered was very small after the month's interval, and excited good competition, the prices paid being 1*d.* per lb. dearer for bold-medium and small-medium descriptions. East Indian Calicut hard long pale 2*s.* 11*d.*, bold and medium 2*s.* 8*d.*, medium and small 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 5*d.* Ceylon-Mysore good bold palish, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*; bold and medium palish, 2*s.* 7*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; medium palish, 2*s.* 5*d.*; pickings, bold pale split, 1*s.* 10*d.*; small brown and split, 1*s.* 8*d.*; pale seed, 1*s.* 10*d.*, and good Bombay seed is worth 2*s.* 2*d.*

**COCA-LEAVES** sold at lower rates for 95 packages of ground Java; 8*d.* was paid for good green, and from 5*d.* to 6*d.* for less desirable quality; 11 bales of fair thin broken Java (Truxillo character) sold at 7*d.* per lb. subject, and for 6 cases of fair green Ceylon (Huanoco character) 1*s.* 3*d.* was paid, brown going at 10*d.* and country damaged at 6*d.* per lb. A further 26 bales of Java in another interest sold at 6½*d.* for fair broken (Truxillo character).

**CUBEPS.**—Ten bags fair genuine, rather stalky berries were held at 9*l.* per cwt.

**DRAGON'S BLOOD.**—Steady; 8 cases of common dull Singapore lump sold at 6*l.* 10*s.* per cwt. Reboiled lump was bought in at 12*l.*, but the bulk of the firings at the moment is of a mixed character, and buyers hesitate.

**ERGOT.**—A single bag of small sound Russian was held at 4*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

**EUCALYPTUS OIL.**—A lot of 27 cases Australian analysing 59 per cent. eucalyptol had been sold privately, and for a pile of 30 cases, 11½*d.* was paid for 68 per cent. and 11¾*d.* for 62 per cent. eucalyptol. The output in Australia shows signs of substantial falling-off, as prices ruling have been quite unremunerative to distillers.

**GAMBOGE.**—Neglected and plentiful. Ordinary, very blocky Siam pipe is held at 11*l.* 10*s.*, and fair to good ditto at from 12*l.* to 13*l.* per cwt. Eighteen cases have arrived per *Chumpon* from Bangkok.

**GUM ACACIA.**—Ten bags Australian sold at 30*s.* per cwt. for fair glassy sorts.

**HONEY** sold without material alteration, eleven casks Jamaica realising 32*s.* per cwt. for fair bright liquid, and 28*s.* 6*d.* for rather darkish liquid. Of St. Lucia, 25 cases sold at from 28*s.* to 29*s.* per cwt. for fair bright liquid. Three barrels Hayti realised 26*s.* for dark liquid, and 59 cases ordinary yellowish New Zealand were bought in at 30*s.* per cwt.

**IPECACUANHA** sold at steady rates, six bales Matto Grosso being disposed of at from 7*s.* 9*d.* to 7*s.* 10*d.*, the bulk at the higher price, for mostly ordinary wiry root; five bales of cultivated Minas were offered, for which the limit was 7*s.* 6*d.* The above was said to be the whole of the London stock of one importer, and as the supplies are now extremely low, it is expected that with the winter demand the prices paid to-day will be the cheapest seen this year.

**MYRRH.**—For ordinary partly blocky Aden sorts, 65*s.* was wanted, and for common Somali sorts the price was 60*s.*

**OLIBANUM.**—A new parcel of 32 cases was offered, very good drop of which was held at 50*s.*, badly garbled at 55*s.*, and garblings at 25*s.* per cwt.

**ORANGE-PEEL.**—Three cases ordinary dull Maltese strip sold without reserve at 5½*d.* per lb.; 15 cases of mostly dull strip were offered without reserve, but did not sell.

**RHUBARB.**—Quiet. A single case of bold round Canton with three-quarter fair pinky fracture sold at 11*d.* per lb. subject. For bold round orange-coated genuine Shensi, with three-quarter fair pinky fracture, 1*s.* 10*d.* was wanted, and for small and druggists' trimming root 1*s.* 9*d.* was asked. About a dozen cases of Shensi kiln-dried, of High-dried character, were offered, but nothing sold. Bold round of this description was bought in at 2*s.*, bold flat at 1*s.* 9*d.*, and medium round at 1*s.* 9*d.*

**SARSAPARILLA.**—Grey Jamaica, of which 12 bales were offered, was 1*d.* per lb. easier, 1*s.* 7*d.* per lb. being paid for fair part slightly coarse. Eight bales Native-Jamaica sold at full prices, 1*s.* 1*d.* being paid for fair red, 1*s.* for palish red, 10*d.* to 11*d.* for dull red mixed, and 7*d.* to 8*d.* for common dull.

**SENNA.**—Tinnevely of new crop met with good competition, the better grades of which sold at full prices, while the lower grades were firmer; pods were unchanged. A large proportion of the leaf showed signs of damage, mainly as the result of drought. Small common specky to ordinary yellowish leaf sold at 1¼*d.* to 1¾*d.*, middling greenish 2*d.* to 2½*d.*, medium to bold medium greenish 3*d.* to 3½*d.*, and good bold greenish (partly specky) 4*d.* to 4½*d.* per lb.; dark to fair pods 1½*d.* to 1¾*d.* Of Alexandrian leaf and pods, 16 packages sold without reserve at 2*d.* to 2½*d.* for sea-damaged siftings, 2½*d.* to 3*d.* for sea-damaged half-leaf, and 2*d.* for dark pods. For fair sound palish, partly torn pods, 5½*d.* was wanted, 3½*d.* for siftings, and 4½*d.* for broken leaf.

**STICKLAC.**—Eleven cases of fair slightly woody from Bombay sold at 28*s.* per cwt. subject, small dusty at 22*s.* subject, and dust at 2*s.* 6*d.*

**TAMARINDS.**—Twelve casks ordinary dark juicy Nevis sold at 10*s.*

**TONKA BEANS.**—Four casks of this rare article were strictly limited at 21*s.* per lb. for good bold but softish Angostura.

The exports from Venezuela (according to the British Consul at Caracas) during the fiscal year 1909-10 amounted to 92 metric tons, valued at 12,458*l.*, against 290 metric tons, valued at 32,343*l.*, during 1908-9.

**TURMERIC.**—Only sea-damaged was disposed of, from 17*s.* to 20*s.* 6*d.* being paid for Madras finger; for sound Madras finger 23*s.* to 25*s.* was wanted, and for fair whole bulbs the limit was 20*s.*

**TURTLE.**—Two cases of dried realised 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb.

**WAX, BEES'**, was almost a dead-letter. The principal sale was one of 37 bales East African, for which 6*l.* 15*s.* per cwt. subject was paid for good bright block. A single package of West Indian sold at 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* for good pale. Madagascar and Zanzibar were held at 7*l.* to 7*l.* 5*s.*, but no business was done.



### Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest. Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

#### National Insurance Bill.

SIR.—After reading the article in your last issue (index folio 324) on the Administration of the Pharmaceutical Benefits under the National Insurance Bill, I fail to see how such a schedule of prices as that suggested could possibly benefit chemists or leave a margin of profit. I take it that insurance dispensing is not to be considered a side-line or custom-bringer, but that it will become one of the leading features of the pharmacist's business, especially when the principle of separating prescribing from dispensing has become not only recognised but practised universally. Also that each prescription will be copied, dispensed in first-class style, wrapped up, and entered. This is where time is taken up when compared with institution work. Tariff prices will eventually become the ruling prices, as, indeed, they ought to be. No work should be under-paid, especially by the State, nor should ordinary and necessary work be paid for in excess of its value. In the production of uniform articles it is the number that pays, but no such proposition could possibly be applied to dispensing as a whole. To earn 1*l.* per day, sixty items must be dispensed at a gross profit of 4*d.* each, or eighty at 3*d.*, etc. It is largely a question of how many items will fall to the individual chemist. Out of this amount of profit all expenses must be paid, for such a number will leave the chemist very little time for other business. If there are 10,000 chemists in business and 10,000,000 of the insured each averaging one prescription yearly, then each chemist would dispense 1,000, which, at an average profit of 6*d.*, would amount to the magnificent sum of 25*l.* But this would be only about twenty prescriptions weekly. If this discrepancy should arise, and one class of pharmacist makes insurance dispensing his chief work and the other a side-line only, at the remuneration mentioned it will be a poor thing in either case. Can we not obtain reliable statistics from friendly societies showing the number of prescriptions dispensed in proportion to their membership? I would like to suggest a modification of the tariff basis, but hope to see much better prices. It is as follows:

#### Mixtures, Gargles, Lotions, Drops, etc.

1*d.* each ingredient (except infusions and other galenicals not generally kept in stock), unless it is claimed and admitted to cost more according to the "Insurance Price-list." 1*d.* for dispensing each ingredient. When the number of doses exceeds twelve, each six or less to be charged 50 per cent. more than the original charge.

#### Pills, Powders, Cachets, etc.

4*d.* per doz. (minimum charge), 2*d.* for each additional six or less.

#### Stocks.

Each medical man on the local panel may supply stock formulae to the Health Committee. Prices to be half the above (with a minimum), except when otherwise agreed. This rule to apply to such articles as Bland's Pills and other listed articles.

There will probably be a tendency to see patients less frequently than heretofore and to give sufficient medicine to last longer. Instead of the 8-oz. mixture containing eight doses, the pint bottle will appear as in public institutions sometimes with  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. doses, hence the above provisions. I have indicated roughly a few of the ideas which have occurred to me, which I hope will bring other useful suggestions.

General Dispensary, Birmingham.

J. WILSON.

Mr. P. R. Roux (Bezuidenhout Valley, Johannesburg) sends us a letter regarding the ultimate effect of the National Insurance Bill upon chemists, in the course of which he writes:

Hitherto the requirements of the sick have been supplied by disjointed sections of doctors, chemists, dentists, and nurses. The National Insurance Bill will cause the members of these four professions to become organised in conformity with the laws of economics. There will be co-ordination with subdivision of labour. By slow degrees law and order will evolve from chaos. Finally, organisation will have established such harmony between the four groups that the requirements of the sick of the whole of the United Kingdom will be supplied by one body of workers, each worker being allotted a specific task. In return for their services those workers will be entitled to the benefits of the labour of all the other industrial groups. In a word, production for profit will have been abolished by that time, and labour will have become the one and only means of exchange; but that time lies away in the distant future. Meanwhile there is nothing but hardship and disappointment in store for the chemist, however rosy the future may appear at different times. . . . At first the system of supply will be crude, and there will be great wastage. As time progresses the system will assume definite shape, and wastage will give place to economy. When economy becomes the central point of activity, competition between individual chemists will intensify in proportion. As prices become lower and still lower the smaller chemists will gradually drop out and enter the employ of larger firms as wage-earners. The large firms will cut prices still lower, and as the unsuccessful houses go to the wall the wage-earning chemists will increase in numbers. The net result of the whole process will be that in the course of a few years the nationally insured workers will obtain their medicines at practically cost-price. This prediction can be verified by a similar process that is taking place on the gold-mines of the Witwatersrand area. Fifteen years ago the chemists on the Rand coined money from the supply of medicines to the mines. To-day the mines are being supplied at practically cost-price. As various mines become amalgamated into one big company to reduce working costs, so the reduction of the cost of medical requirements also comes under review, and the result is invariably disastrous as far as the chemist is concerned. Combination is taking place so rapidly that amalgamations are now being further combined; and in a few years to come the bulk of the machines on the Rand will be worked as one huge organisation. By that time the dispensers all along the reef will probably be wage-earners in the employ of the mines.

#### Insurance Bill Dispensers.

SIR.—As a dispenser to a medical man, I must protest against the remarks that are constantly being made about the incompetency of medical dispensers in general and the perfunctory manner in which their duties are performed. To say, as one of your correspondents does (*C. & D.*, August 19, index folio 332), that a doctor's dispenser could not make a pill or spread a plaster to save his life, only shows ignorance. Dispensers proper—that is, those who have made it a lifelong calling—are usually as well educated and as well trained as pharmacists and do their work in an equally satisfactory manner. Instead of receiving, as your correspondent implies, great benefit under the National Insurance Bill, I consider we are very badly treated. Most of them hold permanent appointments at fair salaries. The result of this Bill, transferring as it does one-third of the dispensing to pharmacists, will be that many of them will lose their situations, and the only thing open to them will be that of assistant dispenser to a chemist at a small salary and under the supervision of a pharmacist. This is indeed adding insult to injury, to say that a man who for thirty or forty years has acted as dispenser shall only be allowed to dispense under the supervision of a pharmacist who probably has not been in the habit of dispensing in one month as much as the dispenser has done in one week. The whole thing is unfair and unreasonable, and should never have been sanctioned. It is true that Mr. Glyn-Jones supported the clause giving dispensers the status of dispenser under the Bill, but the reason for this was probably because he knew that pharmacists would be unable to do all the dispensing imposed on them by the Act and would require cheap assistants. Also, Mr. Glyn-Jones probably realised that there was a feeling of sympathy with these men who might lose their livelihood, and he was afraid they might be placed—as



they ought to be—on equal terms, as far as this Act is concerned, with the pharmacists.

Yours, etc.,  
AN APOTHECARY'S ASSISTANT. (136/55.)

#### Dispensing Bookkeeping.

SIR,—I have read with great interest both Mr. Dodsley's and Mr. McKellar's account of their respective systems of recording prescriptions. The only advantage I see in Mr. McKellar's D.R.B. is the inclusion of the dispenser's initials. The Rpt. mark is unnecessary, as the break in consecutive numbers indicates a repeat order. This is more apparent in a record such as Mr. Dodsley's, where the items are distinctly tabulated. In the matter of typing pill-labels, I find little difficulty. My own typewriter is a Blick, with adjustable line width and a carriage specially designed for label-printing. In addition to printing dispensing-labels in the facsimile handwritten type, I also use the typewriter for printing unusual slip-labels in ordinary small Roman type, powder-envelopes, and address-tallies.

Yours truly,  
D. SQUAIRD. (137/56.)

#### The Value of the Major.

SIR,—Other things, such as business knowledge and retail experience, being equal, the Major man certainly has an advantage over the Minor man in the chances of obtaining a good berth. A good deal depends on the kind of berth he is applying for. A hospital dispensership, or the management of a good-class dispensing business, are instances where the extra technical knowledge can be used to advantage. In hospital work especially a theoretical and practical knowledge of serum therapy, bacteriology, the opsonic treatment, etc., is essential, and I think your correspondent will agree that a Major man is better equipped to grapple with these problems than a Minor man. To my mind, the essence of the question lies in one's ability to apply the extra knowledge and training gained in studying for the Major.

Yours truly,  
Hammersmith, W. B. L. BURRELL.

#### Subscribers' Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among "C. & D." readers.

#### The Wasp Plague.

I am sending you herewith a sample of Smith's sulphur-tablets which have been attacked by wasps, a colony of which took possession of the box.—W. P. (132/44.) [The tablets are eaten away into rugged shapes, almost as though they had been subjected to great heat.—ED.]

#### Newfoundland Cod-liver Oil.

Mr. W. Bousfield, referring to the note in the C. & D., August 19, index folio 313, states that the moist foggy atmosphere of Newfoundland contrasts with the dry crisp air of Norway, and is an important factor in the successful manufacture of cod-liver oil. He thinks also that manufacturers should strive to reach and maintain a higher standard of cod-liver oil. The heavy Newfoundland oil stands pre-eminent against the lighter thinner Norwegian oil as a feeder for feather-dressing.

#### Glassine Labels.

I had my shop-rounds labelled with these labels eight years ago. Out of 160 labels, only six have sprung off. The label on the lin. camph. bottle is as good now as when first put on, but the bottle is an oil-bottle, with the usual arrangement for returning the drops of oil round the lip to the bulk. Glycerins can be stored in bottles labelled with glassine labels if capped oil-bottles are employed.—W. Forster (Seaham Harbour).

Seven or eight years ago I fixed six dozen of these labels on my shop-bottles, many of them on frequently handled bottles containing oils (camphorated, colza, castor, etc.), p. ac. bor., liq. ammon., liq. calcis, sp. meth., tr. quin. ammon., and syrups (such as rhubarb and squills). The celluloid fronts have come off some six or seven and been refixed with secotite. This was most probably my own fault, as I curved them under a knife-edge to make them rest better round the bottle when fixing, and this was overdone. All the other labels are practically as good as they were when fixed. They are neat and bright, and are easily cleaned and quickly read. In my experience they do equally well for oils and glycerin—those that I have on oils having stood just as well as others. Walter Laws (South Shields).

#### Getting rid of a Cough.

A lady came into my establishment for a pennyworth of powdered resin and a pennyworth of jalap. I told the lady I had no powdered resin, so she said, "Well, I will take the jalap." She then informed me she was going to give it to her little boy for whooping-cough. "Oh," I said, "how is it going to act?" "Well," she said, "a friend of mine told me to get a pennyworth of powdered resin and a pennyworth of jalap, and give the powdered resin first, to stick the cough on the chest, and then give the jalap to carry it through." My reply was, "That sounds all right 'theoretically,' but I am afraid 'practically' it would not act." I have mentioned this incident to several doctors, and they think it is well worth printing.—F. E. Whitfield (Great Yarmouth).

#### The Open Road.

Give me a day of cloudless, azure skies,  
Some chance wayfarers on a gleaming road;  
A cosy inn when sparkling daylight dies,  
And life becomes a march without a load.

The open highways grip one's heart, transcend  
Some luring vision on the hills of Hope,  
That mocked one's grasp in youth. So in the end  
The fates lend wisdom when we cease to grope.

That is the ideal holiday for chemists or their assistants. Take your dog, if you are lucky enough to possess one, a stout walking-stick, a few sovereigns, and a mind as open as the highway, and forget everything for a few days. Last year I had the honour of contributing a few lines in appreciation of "Xrayser II.'s" excellent *critique* of "Mr. Polly"; and the editor suggested in the heading he employed that I was just such another groper after the things that interest one in life. How near he was to the truth I did not know until I read the adventures of Mr. Wells's commonplace hero! I am going away on Saturday to forget that scribbling is much pleasanter than rolling pills; to forget a great many other things also. And if some rural pharmacist should notice me contemplating his windows, I hope he will step outside for a moment's conversation; for I love to meet and talk to strangers almost as much as I enjoy being spoken to. That is how one moves about the world learning something new every hour.—Hamish Dhu.

#### Dispensing Notes.

This section is for the discussion and solution of dispensing problems and prescriptions received by "C. & D." readers. We are always pleased to receive the opinions of readers for publication. "The Art of Dispensing" ("C. & D." Office, 6s.) is the standard book of reference on this subject.

#### Thymol Injection.

SIR,—I think the enclosed prescription for a rectal injection will be interesting to your readers, who may have suggestions to offer as to the correct way of dispensing it. My procedure was to dissolve about 10 grains of powdered soap in a little warm water, add the thymol, which melts, and shake well. The result is an opalescent mixture, which does not separate.

Yours, etc.,  
Bangkok. J. J. MCBETH.  
Thymol ... .. 388.  
Aquam ... .. 3XX.

Signe. For injection as directed.

Send a rectal syringe with indiarubber ball, for a child.

#### Legal Queries.

Consult the Legal Advice Section of "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1911, p. 435, before writing about your difficulty.

C. K.-B. (136/29).—You seem more ready to give up a part of the chemist's business than most people. It may be that you do not seem to realise that the practice of dentistry is not in this country restricted to dentists.

C. W. E. (134/40).—TRADE-MARKS.—If you are using a trade-mark registered by another firm and wish to avoid trouble, it will be necessary to come to some understanding on the matter. If you resolve to go to law, your solicitor will probably advise you to enter an action to have the trade-mark expunged from the register. In the meantime it would be as well to find out what the trade-mark actually consists of. The letter you send probably accurately expresses your feelings in the matter, but does not give us the wording of the solicitor's letter or the number of the trade-mark.

### Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We do not as a rule repeat information given in this section during the past twelve months. When references are given to past issues, these should be consulted. Back numbers for the past five years can generally be obtained from our office at the published prices. We do not undertake to analyse and report upon proprietary articles.

**M.Q. (19/91).—CONCENTRATED METOL-QUINOL DEVELOPER.**—The remarks of the "British Journal of Photography," which were quoted in the *C. & D.*, August 19, index folio 328, were founded on a formula by Mr. R. L. Boyd, published in the "British Journal Photographic Almanac." The recipe is as follows:

Metol	...	...	...	24 grains
Quinol	...	...	...	96 grains
Warm water	...	...	...	4 oz.
Dissolve, and add				
Sodium sulphite	...	...	...	1½ oz.
This forms a pasty mass, to which is added				
Caustic soda	...	...	...	64 grains

After shaking for a minute a clear concentrated solution is obtained.

For use, dilute 5j. with 5vij. of water, the resulting developer containing in each ounce metol ¾ grain, quinol 3 grains, sodium sulphite 20 grains, caustic soda 2 grains. The image appears in from five to eight seconds, and development is usually complete in from one and a-half to two minutes. The factor is about 16. Diluted with double the amount of water indicated above, and with the addition of a little bromide, the developer is useful for developing bromide-paper. The concentrated solution keeps well.

**Canine (119/46)** asks us what is the best method of eradicating lice on an Aberdeenshire terrier. [Lice are usually very difficult to get rid of. A dressing of paraffin oil 1 part mixed with olive oil 6 to 8 parts applied every alternate day, or a mixture of sulph. nigr., ol. picis, and ol. dulc. applied once or twice will kill the insects. The eggs or nits must, however, also be destroyed, and for this purpose an examination of the animal made from time to time. A drop of paraffin placed upon the nits makes them shrivel up and drop off. The dog should be provided with a bed of shavings or sawdust liberally sprinkled with eucalyptus oil and turpentine. If the animal is housed in a kennel, clean all the benches, walls, and floors with a strong solution of carbolic acid or with tobacco-water.]

**Colony (105/6).**—Articles in regard to the conditions of pharmacy in the British Colonies have appeared in the following issues of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*: (Canada) April 23, 1910, p. 626; (New Zealand) June 18, 1910, p. 918; "The Chemist Abroad," 1909 *Diary*; "Counsel by Colonial Confères," April 24, 1909, p. 624. A chemist such as yourself, with the Minor qualification, a Science degree, and some medical experience, should do well in any of the Colonies, provided you are steady and are not afraid of hard work and are intimate with business methods. We had a letter the other day from an English pharmacist in Australia stating that a man of such capabilities as yourself can get a situation in a few weeks with a salary of at least 5l. a week, but probably 4l., and the opportunities of starting in business on one's own account are just as frequent out there as here. Of course, there is competition in Australia as well as here, and sometimes it is exceptionally keen, while a man has to adapt himself to the conditions, and it is seldom possible for him to carry out the ideals that he may have as to what a drug business should be.

**J. W. W. (130/5).**—**DIARRHŒA-MIXTURE.**—The following is the formula you require. It may be referred to as P.F. 10, or C. & D. Diary 8, for purposes of the known, admitted, and approved remedies' exemption for chemists.

Ac. sulph. dil.	...	...	...	5iij. m160.
Tr. opii	...	...	...	5xiiij. m20.
Tr. card. co.	...	...	...	5vjss.
Sp. chlorof.	...	...	...	5iij. m16.
Svr. zingiberis	...	...	...	5xiiij.
Ol. menth. pip.	...	...	...	m80.
Aquam ad	...	...	...	Cong. j.

5jss. pro dosis.

**J. W. B. (118/31).**—The plant you send is ground ivy (*Nepeta Glechoma*, Benth.). We are unable to state its effect on cattle when eaten in quantity, but we cannot find that any cases of cattle-poisoning have been recorded. Possibly some of our readers have had experience in the matter.

**J. C. (124/30).**—A list of books on pharmacy is given in the Educational Number (August 12), index folio 300. We could have advised you more particularly if you had told us more about your requirements.

**A. R. B. (125/50).**—**DENTIFRICE FLAVOUR.**—We do not know the flavour of the dentifrice to which you refer. Here are two perfumes given in "Pharmaceutical Formulas" which are good:

1.	2.
Ol. bergamottæ ... 5j.	Ol. limonis ... 5vj.
Ol. limonis ... 5j.	Ol. bergamottæ ... 5iij.
Ol. lavandulæ ... 5j.	Ol. aurantii ... 5iij.
Ol. aurantii ... 5iij.	Ol. neroli ... 5j.
Ess. moschi ... 5iij.	M.

M.

**Statutes (126/19).**—**FAIRCHILD SCHOLARSHIP.**—You will find some useful information as to the course of study for this scholarship in the Educational Number of this Journal (August 12, index folio 271), which will answer your inquiry. You can enter for the Jacob Bell Scholarship as well if you fulfil the conditions.

**Hypo (112/27).**—**LINIMENT DEPOSIT.**—The sticky deposit which is thrown out from a mixture of aconite and belladonna liniments with chloroform is mainly of a saccharine nature. It contains only traces of alkaloids. Filtration is not necessary, decantation being preferable in this case.

**S. T. B. (124/22).**—**QUALIFYING IN THE UNITED STATES.**—Each State has its own pharmacy laws and examinations for "druggists." There is reciprocity between some of the States, but none with Great Britain or Ireland. It will be necessary for you to obtain the particulars of the examination from the Pharmacy Board of the State to which you are intending emigrating. You may take it that conditions of life are no easier in the United States than in this country.

**A. S. M. (119/30).**—**PEPPERMINT-GROWING.**—The soil you mention is not considered suitable for growing peppermint. The matter was dealt with in *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary*, 1908, where "rich friable soil, rather moist," is mentioned as the most suitable soil. You should refer to this article, and also the paper read by Mr. Henderson before the British Pharmaceutical Conference at Portsmouth, which was printed in the *C. & D.*, July 29, p. 216.

**F. B. (120/31).**—**INFLUENZA-MIXTURE.**—The formula you require is as follows:

Quin. sulph.	...	...	...	gr. xij.
Vin. ipecac.	...	...	...	5j.
Liq. ammon. acet.	...	...	...	3iij.
Syr. tolu.	...	...	...	5j.
Ac. hydrochlor. dil.	...	...	...	
Liq. cocci	...	...	...	aa. q.s.
Sp. chlorof.	...	...	...	5j.
Aq. destill. ad	...	...	...	5vj.

Dose: 5ss. ter in die.

**A. F. B. (118/53).**—Our rules prevent us supplying imitations of proprietary articles.

**R. B. M. (119/61).**—**WHITE OIL OF BIRCH** is perhaps a highly rectified oil of birch tar (oleum rusci), but it may be that your customer has reversed the name, and intends oil of white birch, which is usually of a yellowish-brown colour.

**For a Strike (133/5).**—Considering the small membership of the body to which you refer, we consider that the officials are not wanting in wisdom in the course they are pursuing.

**E. H. R. (137/39).**—**MAGGOT-CURE FOR CONSUMPTION.**—The details of this were published in our issue for August 5 (index folio 252).

## Retrospect of Fifty Years Ago.

Reprinted from "The Chemist and Druggist," August 15, 1861.

### Pharmaceutical Society.

At a meeting of Committee, held on the 26th of July, the subject of the proposed alteration of the bye-laws was discussed, and the following minute adopted: "The Committee having considered the bye-laws, and the correspondence relating to proposed alterations of the same, think it desirable to have a further expression of opinion on the subject before proceeding with that part of the proposed alteration relating to the admission to membership of chemists in business on their own account prior to 1852, without passing the usual examination, but on the production of certificates satisfactory to the Council." The important subject of Accidental Poisoning has been under consideration, and a Committee have undertaken to inquire into and report upon the best arrangements to be adopted for the protection of the public.





